



Monday 2nd March 2026

Dear Year 5 and 6 families,

As our children grow more independent, many begin to take an interest in mobile phones and social media. Recently, we have seen a number of pupils in upper Key Stage 2 engaging with online platforms and gaming websites which include messaging tools. These platforms are being accessed outside of school hours but are having a negative impact on friendships and pupil wellbeing inside of school. We would therefore like to work in partnership with families to ensure that this is done safely and appropriately.

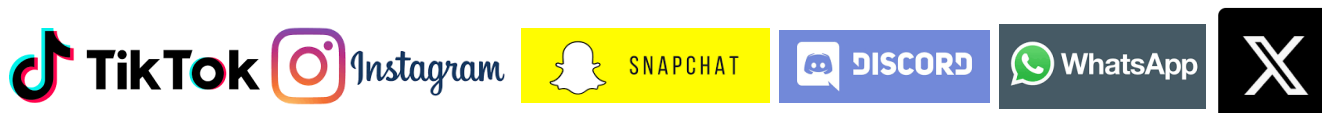
Below is some guidance around the use of social media which we hope will support you in making an informed decision about allowing your child access to these platforms and have conversations with your child about safe online behaviours.

### What do we mean by social media?

Social media includes apps, games and websites where users can communicate, share content or interact with others. This may include: messaging apps, video sharing platforms, online gaming chats, photo-sharing apps and livestreaming platforms. Even platforms that appear child-friendly such as Roblox include social features such as comments, messaging or live interaction.

### Age Restrictions

Most social media platforms have a **minimum age requirement of 13**. This is not just guidance, it forms part of the platform's terms of service and is linked to data protection laws designed to safeguard children. Popular apps such as: WhatsApp, TikTok, X, Instagram, Snapchat, Discord and YouTube (standard accounts) are **not designed for primary-aged children**.



Some games also include social communication features that carry the same risks as social media.

### Why does this matter?

Children under 13 may not yet have the emotional maturity to manage:

- Online friendships and peer pressure;
- Exposure to inappropriate content;
- Contact from strangers;

- The pressure of likes, comments and sharing;
- The permanence of digital footprints.

Using platforms before the recommended age increases safeguarding risks.

## **Parental Controls: What You Can Do**

If you decide to allow your child access to a mobile phone or online platforms, we strongly recommend using parental controls. On devices, you can use built-in controls such as: screen time limits; app approval before download; content restrictions and location sharing management. Both Apple and Android devices include family safety settings.

On apps and games, you can enable: private accounts; restricted messaging; comment controls and time limits. You may also wish to consider using broadband parental controls to: block adult content; limit access to certain apps/websites and set online time windows.

Technology controls are helpful but regular, open conversations are the most important safeguard. Talk to your child about:

- Not sharing private things, such as personal information including their name, phone number, photos, location and other people's personal information including photos;
- Being kind online;
- Telling a trusted adult if something worries them;
- Not chatting with people they don't know in real life. It is a good idea to explain to your child that, if someone starts asking them personal questions or suggests that they speak on a different messaging platform, they should come and tell you.

In school, mobile phones must not be used during the day and must be handed in if brought onto site. Through our curriculum, we teach pupils about: online safety, respectful communication and digital responsibility. However, safe use outside school relies heavily on family guidance.

Every family makes different decisions about technology and we respect this. Our aim is simply to ensure all families are informed and supported in making safe choices. Further information can be found in the [parent/carer resources on the UK Safer Internet Centre useful](#) and the [NSPCC's Keeping Children Safe Online website pages](#).

If you have any concerns or questions about this please feel free to contact your child's class teacher or a member of the senior leadership team.

Best wishes,



Katie Beecroft  
Headteacher