



St Peter's Catholic School



Faith is our Foundation

Headteacher: Mr S Shelton



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Archdiocese of Birmingham
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Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to raise an important issue concerning pupils' use of social media and the role we all play in helping to keep children safe online. Social media is a big part of many young people's lives, and while it can be a positive way for them to communicate and express themselves, it can also present risks if not used appropriately. These risks may include seeing unsuitable content, unkind behaviour, contact from strangers, or sharing personal information without realising the consequences.

In school, we regularly talk to pupils about how to stay safe online. However, the guidance and supervision that children receive at home is equally important. We ask parents and carers to keep an active interest in the apps, websites, and social media platforms their child uses, and to make sure age restrictions and privacy settings are being followed.

To support families, here are the official minimum age requirements for some popular platforms, along with links to their guidance:

- WhatsApp – 13+

<https://parentzone.org.uk/article/whatsapp>

- TikTok – 13+

<https://www.tiktok.com/community-guidelines/en/youth-safety/>

- Instagram – 13+

<https://legalclarity.org/how-old-do-you-have-to-be-to-get-instagram/>



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- Snapchat – 13+

<https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/guidance/snapchat-safety-a-how-to-guide-for-parents/>

- YouTube – 13+ for an account

<https://support.google.com/youtube/answer/3159776?hl=en-GB>

It is also important to be clear that the school is not responsible for anything pupils choose to post or share on social media outside of school hours or away from school premises. We can offer advice and support, but monitoring children's online activity at home remains the responsibility of parents and carers.

You can help support your child's online safety by:

- Knowing which platforms they use and how they use them
- Checking age limits before allowing access
- Setting privacy settings together
- Talking regularly about what they see and do online
- Encouraging them to come to you if something worries them

By working together, we can help pupils develop positive and safe online habits. If you would like any further advice or support, please feel free to contact the school.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely,



Mr R Stanton

Assistant Headteacher – Behaviour and Culture