



Goodyers End Primary School

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Dear Parents/Carers,

It has come to our attention that there are messages being sent between children on social media platforms that are affecting friendships within school and subsequently, the children's learning time. We would like to remind you that, as a school, we are able to support with issues surrounding social media but cannot deal with or give consequences for things that happen outside of the school environment. It is your responsibility to monitor your child's usage of these Apps; whether they are appropriate for your child and whether your child is using them appropriately.

Please be reminded that all social media sites have an age rating of at least 13 years plus, meaning that no children at primary school should have accounts of their own on any of these platforms (see chart below). The reasons for this include – but are not limited to – the dangers that social media can pose to children and adults alike. Some of these dangers consist of cyberbullying, invasion of privacy, members viewing inappropriate or offensive images and messages and strangers grooming other members. Adults too can fall victim to all of these dangers, therefore it is important that our children are taught in a safe way to deal with online challenges in order to keep them safe.

	Facebook	13+		Messenger	13+
	Twitter	13+		Snapchat	13+
	Instagram	13+		WhatsApp	16+
	TikTok	13+		Skype	13+

Our Computing and Online Safety curriculum at school teaches children to be responsible online citizens, informs them of the dangers of the internet and helps them to make safe choices in the online world. It is imperative that this learning is fully supported at home.

The following websites give fantastic advice and support to parents and carers:

- Age rating information for apps, websites and games (type in to the search bar):
<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/news/age-content-ratings-apps-games/>
- Setting up devices with parental controls:
<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/smartphones-and-other-devices/>
- Conversations to have with your child about their life online:
<https://www.childnet.com/blog/having-an-open-and-honest-conversation-about-online-safety-5-questions-for-parents->

Yours Sincerely

Miss G Horsfall
Online Safety Co-ordinator

