

24 April 2024

Dear Parents,

It has recently come to our attention that a number of children in the year group have access to social media accounts, including platforms such as Snapchat. We understand that in today's digital age, children are increasingly exposed to various online platforms, but it is crucial to emphasise the potential dangers associated with these platforms, particularly for children of their age.

Social media platforms like Snapchat have age restrictions in place. The minimum age requirement for Snapchat is 13 years old, as stated in their terms of service. This age restriction is based on important considerations regarding children's cognitive development, emotional maturity, and their ability to navigate online interactions safely.

While social media can offer opportunities for connectivity and self-expression, it also presents various risks, including exposure to inappropriate content, cyberbullying, and privacy concerns. Engaging in social media activities at a young age can impact children's social and emotional development, as well as their academic performance.

When incidents involving social media arise, they can have repercussions on children's relationships within the school community and, consequently, affect their overall learning in school. We strive to create a safe and supportive environment for all pupils, but addressing these issues becomes challenging when children are accessing platforms that are not intended for their age group.

We kindly urge you to have open and honest conversations with your child about the responsible use of technology. Additionally, we encourage you to monitor your child's online activities closely and to provide guidance and support as they navigate the digital world. You will find some additional guidance here: [Parenting, Media, and Everything in Between | Common Sense Media](#)

Kind regards,

Tracy Murray
Deputy Headteacher