



Burnt Tree Primary School

Hill Rd, Tividale, Oldbury, B69 2LN

Tel 0121 557 2967

'Where everyone matters'



Head Teacher Mrs. J. Bayliss

Thursday 9th February 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to make you aware of the e-safety poster on the rear of this letter, which shows the **minimum age** for children to use a range of popular apps and social media tools. Unfortunately, we are dealing with an increasing amount of incidents as a result of children misusing these apps **outside of school**, which can then impact their mental health and wellbeing. By using these apps, pupils are also opening themselves up to a wide range of potential dangers from outside influences, such as online predators, cyberbullying, witnessing offensive and inappropriate materials, etc.

Children have been using WhatsApp (age rating of 16+), TikTok (age rating 13+) and Snapchat (age rating 13+) to send and receive inappropriate language, images and messages to each other. In addition, we have many pupils in the school who have created their own YouTube channels, as well as pupils who have their own Facebook and Twitter accounts. Again, these are all age 13+ apps and should not be used by primary school children.

As a school, we encourage parents to support us with the education and wellbeing of their children, as well as eliminate these opportunities for children to be exposed to offensive materials and online bullying. There is a reason why there is an age limit on these apps - many pupils below these ages are not yet mature enough to use these tools responsibly, but are also vulnerable to the dangers which they could become exposed to. Therefore, we would like to kindly ask parents and carers to check if your children have these apps installed on their devices and to remove them. Issues as a result of these apps being used are frequently being brought in to school and are impacting the children's wellbeing and education. As a school, we can teach the children about the dangers of using these apps, but it is the responsibility of parents and carers to check and prevent their children from using and having access to these tools outside of school.

We continue to teach pupils of all ages in the school about the many benefits of using digital technology and online tools, but also the dangers and harm these can potentially bring if not used appropriately. We will continue to promote the safe use of social media and internet use to highlight to the children about the importance of being a responsible digital citizen, but we strongly urge parents and carers to support us with this as we're unable to monitor and enforce it outside of school.

We would also like to take this opportunity to remind you that **mobile phones are strictly prohibited from being brought into school**. Children, who walk home alone, can hand their mobile phone into the office at the start of the day and collect it at the end of the day if necessary. However, if children are found to have their mobile phone with them during the school day, it will be confiscated and will need to be collected by their responsible adult.

Thank you for your continued support and please feel free to contact us if you'd like any further information.

Kind regards,

M Brazier

Deputy Head Teacher



Age Restrictions for Social Media Platforms

13

is the minimum age for account holders on these social media sites and apps.



Disclaimer: This resource/information is not intended to encourage social media use and we cannot accept any responsibility for pupils that sign up to social media sites after using this resource/information.

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Age Restrictions for Social Media Platforms

16

is the minimum age for account holders on these social media sites and apps.



18

is the minimum age for account holders on these social media sites and apps.



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