



**Church Drive Primary School**  
**'Together we belong, believe and achieve'**  
Port Sunlight, Wirral, Merseyside CH62 5EF Headteacher: Mrs J Jones

29<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Dear Parents / Carers,

Recently, we have had an increasing number of parents / carers raising concerns regarding children's inappropriate use of mobile phones and other forms of social media messaging. In particular, children sending unkind or inappropriate messages to their peers.

When used correctly social media has many benefits. When used incorrectly social media can cause upset and anxiety for adults and for children. Research says that children can be affected in many ways – they feel unhappy, vulnerable, left out, bullied, can't sleep and lose confidence.

This is clearly something that we all want to protect our children from. Incorrect or inappropriate use very often consists of messaging on mobile phones to individuals through group chats. We talk often about this in school but it remains the responsibility of ALL parents / carers to manage and monitor their child's use of mobile phones and wider internet usage.
















Many sites have age restrictions; e.g. Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, Snapchat, Musical.ly, WhatsApp - this is to prohibit and ultimately safeguard primary school children. (See table on the next page for further information)

If a parent feels that their child has been subject to abuse or cyberbullying outside of school they may notify the school if they feel their child needs support and it will be dealt with in line with our behaviour and or bullying policy. However, if this was through an age inappropriate app or website parents will be reminded that their child should not be accessing it. Parents of other pupils involved will be informed and reminders about safe appropriate use of social media will be shared with all children in class.

Often peer pressure persuades children that they must have a mobile phone "because everyone else has" OR to join a social network group. This pressure can equally persuade parents to buy children a mobile phone for their child or children OR to overlook age restrictions on sites. As parents / carers it is entirely appropriate to say "no". If your child does have a phone (or iPad or tablet or laptop) some simple but important safeguarding messages are:

- **Set guidelines for when your child has use of their phone or device and what they can use it for**
- **Check usage and messages for appropriateness**
- **Restrict access to certain sites**
- **Age restrictions on sites are there to protect and safeguard children, check and if in doubt say no!**
- **Keep phones downstairs and not in bedrooms**
- **Remove the privilege of a phone or device if it is used inappropriately**
- **Remind children that digital media leaves a digital footprint; this means that messages and images are stored and are traceable. Think about what you say and post**
- **Use sensibly, safely and only in presence of an adult – look after each other and yourself**

## APP AND THEIR AGE RATINGS.

AGE 13+		AGE 16+	
 Facebook	 Snapchat	 WhatsApp	
 Instagram	 X (Twitter)	<b>AGE 17+</b>	<b>AGE 18+</b>
 Tiktok	 Kik	 Sarahah	 Meetme
 YouNow	 Yubo	 Yolo	 Liveme
 House Party	 Monkey		

Some useful links for parents / carers:

<https://parentingsmart.place2be.org.uk/article/safe-social-media-for-primary-aged-children>

<https://www.openvieweducation.co.uk/social-media-age-ratings/>

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/ukcis-social-media-guide-for-parents-and-carers/>

<https://www.ceop.police.uk/Safety-Centre/>

Kind regards,

Mrs J Jones (Headteacher)