



Grange Primary School

Pursuing excellence for every child

Headteacher: Mrs C. Plaskitt

Dear Parent/Carer,

It has come to our attention that more and more children in the school are using social media platforms outside of school. We appreciate that this is ever more popular for children of Primary School age, but we are finding that the sheer amount of friendship problems that are arising because of these apps, is causing disruptions to valuable teaching time and impacting on children's mental health.

All social media platforms have a minimum age limit of at least 13 and some are higher. Flyers have been attached to this letter to illustrate this and gives some useful tips on keeping children safe.

The main social media platforms that are causing the most problems at school are **Tik Tok**, **Snap Chat** and **Whatsapp**.

TikTok allows users to watch and upload short videos. Our major concerns with this are that children watching videos on the app may be exposed to very inappropriate material. There is no way to restrict content on the app so it is impossible to prevent adult content from being seen by users.

In addition to watching videos, another concern is that children are uploading videos of themselves onto the platform. Without the correct settings, these videos can be seen and commented on by any user. Some of these comments can be disgusting and highly inappropriate for children.

Snap Chat and **Whatsapp** can also cause problems. Whilst many children use group chat in a very positive way, it can lead to some social issues. In some cases, children can be excluded or deleted from certain groups, in others, mean and hurtful things can be said and, very worryingly, there have been cases where very offensive language has been used.

In addition to this, a key feature of **Snapchat** is that messages are deleted after a short period once read. This can make it hard for users to prove that malicious messages have been sent.

Whilst in no way do we endorse or support any of these platforms, we are realistic and understand that no matter what we say, these platforms will still be used. Therefore, we would ask you all to ensure that if you are going to allow your child to access any social media platforms, that you ensure that you know exactly what they are accessing and talk to them about what to do if they feel that they feel that they have experienced anything that has worried or hurt them.

There are a number of flyers, on our Online Safety Page, that break down the key facts about each of the platforms discussed. Please take time to read through and ensure that you are keeping your child as safe as you can whilst online.

Should you want any more advice or help regarding these matters, please telephone school and I will be happy to assist.
Yours sincerely,

Mr T. Newling
(Deputy Headteacher)

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