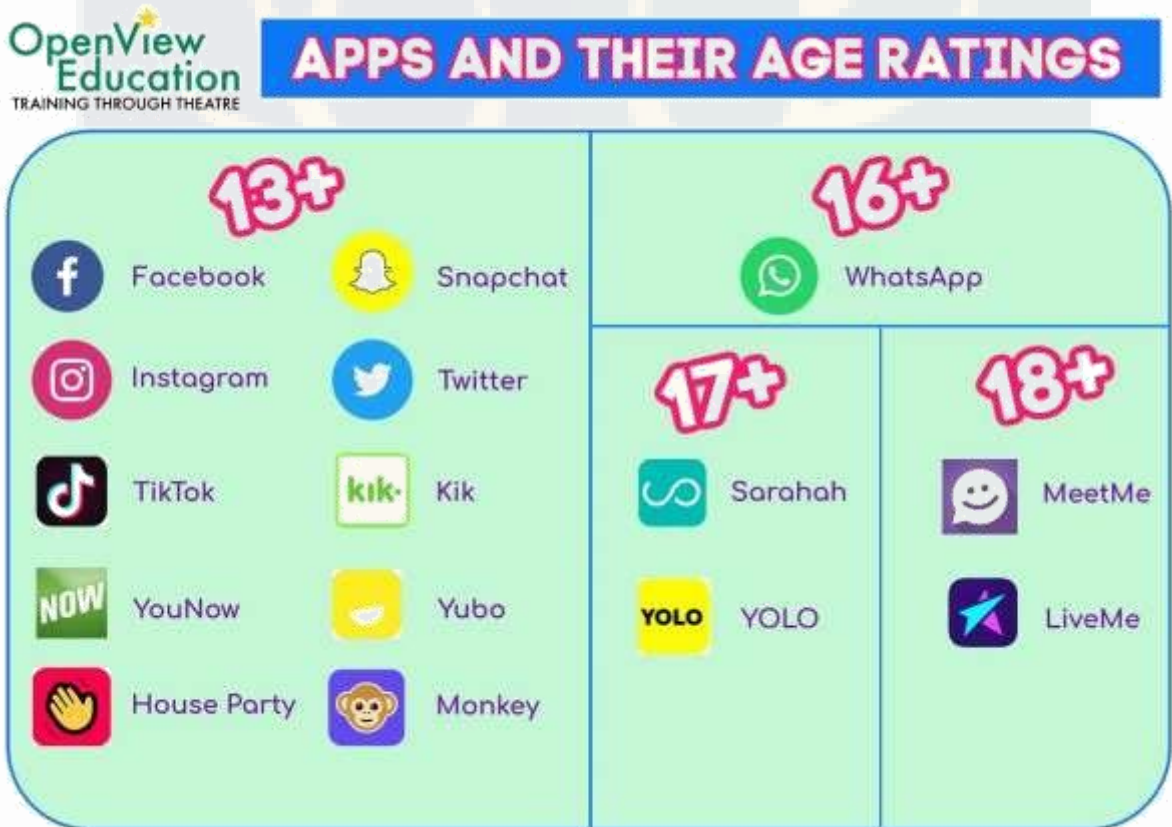


September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

As a school we have noticed that there has been a rising number of issues between students that have been exacerbated by social media. Although social media has many advantages to our young people, there are also considerable drawbacks that we all need to be aware of.

Social media enables students to communicate with each other via online platforms, such as WhatsApp, TikTok and SnapChat. It can also help build young people’s knowledge through the sharing of information. However, it is important to know that such platforms have age restrictions, which are shown in the diagram below:



The use of social media also poses the risk of being exposed to content that is not age appropriate. It also increases incidences of cyber bullying and social anxiety. It is also illegal to send threatening or false information in this way, which is known as malicious communication.

At John Willmott School, we encourage our students to express themselves and communicate with people known to them both in person and online. However, due to the rise in the number of issues between students that have been exacerbated by social media, we strongly urge you as parents and carers to do the following in relation to your child’s use of these platforms:-

- Monitor your child’s use and behaviour on social media platforms.

- Set a curfew each evening where your child logs out of social media platforms to allow them time with you and also time away from their screens.
- Discourage your child from using social platforms where they are below the age rating above.

We have advised students to not respond to malicious, unkind or inappropriate messages about themselves or others. If they are a target or a bystander of any such messages, they should not respond directly but report them to an adult. As parents and carers, we would urge you to give the same advice.

Further online safety information can be found [here](#) and further safeguarding information can be found [here](#).

Thank you for your support with this matter.

Yours faithfully

**Mrs N Gould**  
**Headteacher**