

6 November 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

Like us, you have seen the way social media has allowed connections and support which brings great benefit to children. However, as you know, there are disadvantages when social media is not used correctly. 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. It is important to know that such platforms have age restrictions, which are shown in the diagram below.

We urge parents to do the following:-

1. Check what websites/apps/groups your child uses or accesses and that they are age appropriate
2. Remove access if you have any concerns and report this
3. Monitor use and behaviour on social media platforms
4. 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
5. Inform us if you see anything of concern enquiry@jws.bham.sch.uk and report it to the police

OpenView Education
 TRAINING THROUGH THEATRE

APPS AND THEIR AGE RATINGS



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. Please report any incidents of suspected malicious communication to school and the police

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/carers to do the following in relation to your child's use of these platforms:

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/carers, we would encourage you to give the same advice.

Please check the links below for more useful information.

<https://jws.bham.sch.uk/parents/safeguarding/>

<https://jws.bham.sch.uk/parents/safeguarding/staying-safe-online/>

<https://jws.bham.sch.uk/parents/safeguarding/mental-health-support/>

<https://jws.bham.sch.uk/parents/safeguarding/useful-links/>

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely

Mrs N Gould
Headteacher