



THE PRIORY ACADEMY

LSST

18th December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

RE: Online Safety Newsletter Module 2

Age Restrictions & Language

In a time where there are more social media apps being used each day, we must make you aware that all of these apps have a specified age rating declared within their terms and conditions. Here is a summary of the minimum age required by the better-known social media companies:

Social Media	Age Requirements
WhatsApp	16 (in the EU)
YouTube	18 to have your own account or channel, but this can be 13 with parental permission.
Instagram	Minimum age of 13
TikTok	Minimum age of 13
Snapchat	Minimum age of 13

These age requirements are legally binding for the company and put in place to keep young people safe; however we are well aware that many of our students do hold social media accounts with few privacy settings in place. Our advice would be to have an honest and open conversation with your child about their use of social media with concerns over their safety while using these products. It would be good for you to see the content available on some of these apps to make sure you are comfortable with their use.

If you are interested in understanding more about apps, such as TikTok, then if you search for this link in any browser it is a great website to gain more information: <https://bit.ly/32WHnnU>

Explicit language

As students over the past few months have spent more time indoors with use of their devices, the type of language that has been used on these devices are occasionally becoming part of their everyday vocabulary, which is not always in a manner that we would expect at the Academy. At The Priory Academy LSST, we want to ensure that students are courteous and kind both inside the Academy and online. One step towards tackling the use of some of the unnecessary language that may be used online is by checking through conversations on these apps.

Would our young people want to us to read their messages? Would they feel comfortable with you reading the language or comments that they may be using online? If the answer to either of these questions is “no” then action needs to be taken. This can be done by setting up parental controls or screen time settings on most mobiles. Our combined goal is to make the Academy a safe and healthy community for all. This means tackling

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poor use of language online, as well as at the Academy to create a habit of positive and encouraging language instead.

Useful Websites

If you wish to understand some more about how to be safe online for both yourself and your child then the following websites can give you some more advice:

- www.thinkuknow.co.uk - CEOP website for advice and reporting abuse online.
- www.iwf.org.uk - Report illegal content online (including indecent images of children).
- www.getsafeonline.org - Free up-to-date security and technical advice.

If you wish to talk to someone at the Academy about online safety or safeguarding concerns about inappropriate use of online content then please do contact:

Online Safety: Mr C Donaldson - cdonaldson@prioryacademies.co.uk

Safeguarding: Mr J Nuttall – jnuttall@prioracademies.co.uk

Yours faithfully,



Mr C Donaldson

Online safety team and Teacher of Computer Science

