23rd May 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

RE: E-Safety Newsletter Module 5

Age Restrictions

A question that is often asked is 'How old does my child have to be in order to use social media legally?' The answer is they have to be as old as stated in the terms and conditions of the host app/website. 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

However, it is well know that many young people use the social media sites noted above despite not being the legal age required. As always, the main advice would be to have honest and open conversations with your child about their use of social media to check you are comfortable with their use.

Screen Time

Screen time is an issue being discussed a lot in the news at the moment. There is a lot of discussion about how much screen time is healthy. Yet what really needs to be considered is the content. If one young person is using a device to revise for their examinations then arguably the screen time is healthy. If the young person is looking at violent images, then this is clearly unhealthy. As advised in the Module 2 E-Safety Newsletter 'always be on the apps your child uses'. Then, using this insight, have conversations about use of the app with your child. Or alternatively have your child teach you about any new apps which they want to download. You can then do some research in your own to determine if the app is safe for your family to use. If you are then still concerned about your child's screen time most devices such as iPhones, Samsung, Playstations and XBoxs now have parental controls that allow for the limiting of screen time. A quick search online brings up plenty of guidance that you can follow to make use of. Internet Matters has some very good guidance on Parental Controls: https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/

And recently Apple have brought out some excellent guidance on how to use parental controls and manage screen time on their devices: https://support.apple.com/en-gb/HT201304

Headteacher: Mrs J Hopkinson
The Priory Academy LSST, Cross O' Cliff Hill, Lincoln, Lincolnshire, LN5 8PW
Tel: 01522 889977 **Email:** generalenquiries@priorylsst.co.uk **www.priorylsst.co.uk**

The Priory Academy LSST is part of The Priory Federation of Academies Trust. For further information please contact:
The Priory Federation of Academies Trust, Cross O'Cliff Hill, Lincoln LN5 8PW **Telephone:** 01522 889977
Registered Company No: 6462935. DfE Registration No: 135565

THE
PRIORY
FEDERATION
OF ACADEMIES TRUST

Online Security

Good advice to children and young people is to always check the web address bar to see if it has the little padlock on the left hand side and the web address starts with 'https', with the **s** denoting secure. However, security researchers are finding that criminals are also using the padlock in the hope that the audience will be tricked into thinking the site is legitimate and/or safe. Therefore whilst it is still good advice to check for a secure connection by looking for the padlock and http**s**, users should also check:

- Grammar and spelling (this is the easiest and the most common to find).
- Suspicious popups making outlandish claims (e.g. win an iPad).
- A slight alteration to the web address (an obvious one might be Barc1ays, where the L has been changed to a figure 1)

Passwords are also becoming a key issue, with password hacks becoming more and more common. The National Cyber Security Centre have released some new guidance. The most notable is that they believe a strong password contains at least 3 random words. There is a lot more useful information from the National Cyber Security Centre on passwords here:

https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/section/advice-guidance/all-topics?topics=passwords

Yours faithfully,

Mr G Sleight
E-Safety Lead and Assistant Head