

Haselworth Primary School

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Email: adminoffice@haselworth.hants.sch.uk Website: www.haselworth.hants.sch.uk



Headteacher: Mrs N. Jones BA Ed (Hons) NPQH

Deputy Headteacher/SENDCo: Mrs K. Howard

Chair of Governors: Dr C. Roast

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: Safe use of Social Media

I am writing to you about an issue that we are experiencing regarding the misuse of social media by some students. This is a problem in some year groups but particularly in years 4, 5 and 6 and often leads to behaviour problems and social and emotional distress for those children involved.

In the last few years, the growth in the use of social media sites has been huge: TikTok, Snap Chat, Instagram, Facebook, online gaming, WhatsApp and YouTube being the most popular. Although these sites are very worthwhile if used appropriately, they can cause all sorts of problems when they are used for inappropriate comments and bullying. This can lead to arguments and aggressive behaviour as well as mental health implications and self-esteem issues for victims; this will not be tolerated in the school.

It is crucial that we work with you, the parents and carers of our young people, to ensure that all children are safe on-line and use these forms of communication in a civilised and acceptable way.

The issues that we have dealt with already this year have started with incidents of cyberbullying through Snapchat, WhatsApp and TikTok especially. We will continue to deal with behaviour issues that can result and make sure that the appropriate sanctions for these kinds of behaviour are given in school or by wider agencies, when appropriate.

Age restrictions:

WhatsApp: Recently, WhatsApp announced a new age limit of **16** for users based in Europe. This change was made in response to the **General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)**, which came into effect on May 25, 2018.

Other Social Media Services: Most popular social media platforms have an age restriction of **13 years or older**. Here are some examples:

- Facebook
- Snapchat
- Twitter
- Instagram
- Musical.ly
- Skype

Advice for Parents and Young People:

While these rules relate to privacy, they also impact safety. Some services offer additional protection for users under 18.

Our recommendation is to wait until the required age to join any social media platform. It's better to prioritise safety and privacy.

Remember, the **Online Safety Act** in the UK aims to make technology companies more responsible for users' safety online, especially for children. [Platforms will need to prevent access to harmful and age-inappropriate content while providing clear ways to report problems online](#)

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We also need you as parents and carers to monitor your children's activities on social media and other on-line sites to ensure they are keeping themselves safe. If you are not sure how to do this, please let us know: we can help.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'N Jones'.

Mrs N. Jones
Headteacher