



Archbishop Blanch
SCHOOL

Archbishop Blanch School Voluntary Aided

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Dear Parents/Carers

As I'm sure you agree, the internet is capable of providing significant benefits to a young person's life. However, it is very easy for young people to access and share inappropriate content. With this in mind, we have updated the online safety area of our school website with additional Fact Sheets outlining safety tips regarding key apps and online games. These include information about:

WhatsApp

Instant messaging in one-to-one and group chats, and calls. Allows you to send messages, images, videos and your location.

- Age **16+**

- Children can be at risk of:

- **Bullying**, e.g. directly in a group chat, or by being excluded from a group
- **Sexting**, as they can send and receive explicit photos
- **Grooming**, if they share their location
- Using it below the minimum age



Instagram

Picture and video-sharing. You can post content publicly or to 'followers', see content posted by others, 'follow' each other, 'like' posts, comment, and send messages.

- Age **13+**

- Children can be at risk of:

- Inappropriate **contact from strangers**, who can see and comment on their photos and videos if their account is set to 'public'
- Exposure to **upsetting or harmful material**, such as images relating to eating disorders, self-harm and suicide
- **Bullying**, through fake accounts and unkind comments on posts
- **Pressure to 'look' a certain way** – it's an image-centred app

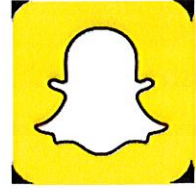


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Snapchat

Picture, video and message-sharing with contacts. The 'snap' is on screen for up to 10 seconds, then disappears; or you can opt for no time limit. You can share snaps in a sequence for up to 24 hours



- Age **13+**

-Children can be at risk of:

- **Grooming**, as the app will share their location unless they use 'ghost mode' and strangers can send them messages/requests
- **Image-sharing without their consent**, as people can save screenshots of images they post before they 'disappear'
- **Sexting**, via requests for sexual images from people they don't know
- **Bullying**, through photos being posted with unkind comments

TikTok

Video-sharing. You can record and upload short video clips, watch other people's videos, 'follow' people, gain 'fans', 'like' and comment



- Age **13+**

- Children can be at risk of:

- Exposure to **explicit or inappropriate videos**, such as pornography and upsetting/harmful content, and **age-inappropriate lyrics**
- **Strangers seeing videos they have shared**, if their account is set to 'public'; and anyone can see their profile information
- Contact from **strangers asking to 'trade' explicit images/videos**
- **Feeling pressured to record inappropriate or explicit videos** to gain more followers

As always, we ask that you are vigilant with your child's use of social media and monitor their use of the apps and their online presence. There are many more safety tips for parents on the school website. We would also ask that you reinforce our school's core values of Community, Compassion, Friendship and Trust as we continue to work together to support your child both in the 'real' and 'virtual' worlds.

Yours sincerely



Mrs K Graham
Deputy Headteacher/SENCo



Mrs C Madeloso
Headteacher