



CEO: Martyn Skinner

**EAST BRIDGFORD ST. PETER'S
CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY**

***'Together in Achievement'
Take Care***

East Bridgford St. Peter's
Church of England Academy
Kneeton Road
East Bridgford
Nottinghamshire
NG13 8PG

Tel: (01949) 20226

Head Teacher: Richard Tomlinson

Deputy: Allison Gibbens

Business Manager: Lisa Hampson

Chair of Governors: Peter Golightly

Email: office@st-peters.notts.sch.uk

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e-safety

Dear Parents/ Carers,

As we understand, we are aware that a number of our older pupils in Year 5 and Year 6 have WhatsApp, Facebook and TikTok profiles (in addition to other social media platforms) even though the permitted minimum age to use these apps are all above that of primary age children.

Our school is committed to promoting the safe and responsible use of the internet and as such, we feel that it is our responsibility to raise this particular issue as a concern. Whilst children cannot access WhatsApp, Facebook and TikTok at school, they could have access to it on other devices outside of school.

As we are sure you will know, WhatsApp, Facebook and TikTok offer amazing communication and social connections, however they are created with their audiences in mind and are all over the age of 13/16. If a child under the age restriction has an account, then they have provided false date of birth details in order to obtain it.

Possible risks for children using online services such as these may include: Inappropriate conversations / exchanges with 'friends' or 'peers' from school. This can then create problems between pupils when they come into school (despite the fact the exchanges happen outside of school). It can also create problems between parents / families and if the children were not allowed under age access to these social media sites, this would not occur.

Online services use "age targeted" advertising and therefore your child could be exposed to adverts of a sexual or other inappropriate nature, depending on the age they stated they were when they registered.

Children may accept friend requests from people they do not know in real life, which could increase the risk of inappropriate contact or behaviour. Language, games, groups and content posted or shared is not moderated, and therefore can be offensive, illegal or unsuitable for children.

Photographs shared by users are not moderated and therefore children could be exposed to inappropriate images or even post their own. Underage users might be less likely to keep their identities private and lying about their age can expose them to further risks regarding privacy settings and options.



Online services could be exploited by bullies and/or sexual predators for other inappropriate contact. Online services cannot and do not verify its members therefore it is important to remember that anyone can make up a profile and may not be who they say they are!

We would recommend that all parents visit our school website for more information on keeping your child safe online.

<https://www.eastbridfordstpeters.co.uk/safeguarding/>

For further information, please click the link above and read: *useful e-safety website links for: parents, children, carers, grandparents, child-minders, families*

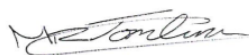
Please see the links below for more information for parents:

<https://www.eastbridfordstpeters.co.uk/useful-links/>

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/what-age-can-my-child-start-social-networking>

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/blog/age-restrictions-social-media-services>

If you have questions or concerns about the issues raised in this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me.



Mr. Tomlinson
Head Teacher / Designated safeguarding Lead

Age Restrictions for Social Media Platforms

What is the minimum age for account holders on these social media sites and apps?



No primary age child should be accessing these platforms



Taken from the Aspire behaviour policy

9. The Scope and Extent of the Academy's Responsibility and Authority

9.1. Aspire academies accept responsibility for the conduct of pupils as follows:

- a) on the school site during school hours and during before/after school activities*
- b) on all school trips*
- c) on the journey to and from school*

9.2. Within the established legal framework, our academies will take any necessary and appropriate disciplinary measures to ensure good conduct during those times. Aspire academies will not accept responsibility for pupils' behaviour before they leave for school in the morning or after they have returned home in the afternoon; neither will we accept responsibility for the conduct of pupils at weekends.

****This would include social media issues outside of school on platforms that are not age appropriate.***

