



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

**'Together in Achievement'  
Take Care**

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7<sup>th</sup> January 2025

**E-Safety Awareness and Social Media Use**

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are writing to address an important issue related to online safety. It has come to our attention that some of our pupils have profiles on platforms such as WhatsApp, Facebook, TikTok, and others, despite these platforms having a minimum age requirement higher than primary school age. For example, Fortnite is rated as suitable for ages 12 and above, and these platforms are designed for users aged 13 or 16 and over.

As a school committed to promoting the safe and responsible use of the internet, we feel it is our responsibility to highlight the potential risks associated with underage use of these services. While these platforms are not accessible during school hours, children may use them on personal devices outside of school.

These platforms offer excellent opportunities for communication and social interaction but are designed with older audiences in mind. If a child under the required age has an account, they would have had to provide false information about their age to register.

**Potential Risks for Children Using These Platforms:**

- **Inappropriate Interactions:** Conversations or exchanges with peers or others online may lead to conflicts that affect relationships in school or between families.
- **Exposure to Inappropriate Content:** Online services often use age-targeted advertising. Providing an older age during registration may expose children to advertisements or content of a sexual or otherwise inappropriate nature.
- **Unverified Contacts:** Children may accept friend requests from people they do not know, increasing the risk of inappropriate contact or interactions.
- **Unmoderated Content:** Groups, games, language, and content shared on these platforms are not monitored, which can lead to exposure to offensive, illegal, or unsuitable material.
- **Inappropriate Sharing:** Children may share photos or personal information without understanding the consequences, potentially compromising their privacy and safety.
- **Exploitation Risks:** Platforms can be exploited by bullies or predators, as there are no guarantees that profiles represent the person they claim to be.

We strongly encourage parents to monitor their children's use of social media and gaming platforms and to ensure that any usage complies with the age restrictions. By doing so, we can collectively support a safer online environment for all children.



# Age Restrictions for Social Media Platforms

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



Sourced from NSPCC website October 2019

## Additional Resources for Parents and Families:

For more information on keeping your child safe online, we recommend visiting the following resources:

- [Our School Website - Safeguarding, E-Safety & Risk Assessments](#)
- [Useful E-Safety Website Links for Parents, Carers, and Families](#)

You may also find the following websites helpful:

- [Internet Matters: What Age Can My Child Start Social Networking?](#)
- [Safer Internet: Age Restrictions on Social Media Services](#)

## Taken from the Aspire behaviour policy

### 10. The scope and extent of the academy's responsibility and authority

#### 10.1. 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.

10.2. 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.*

## Online misbehaviour

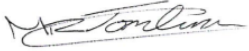
The school can issue behaviour sanctions to pupils for online misbehaviour when:

- It poses a threat or causes harm to another pupil
- It could have repercussions for the orderly running of the school
- It adversely affects the reputation of the school
- The pupil is identifiable as a member of the school



Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in addressing this matter. If you would like further advice or resources on how to manage your child's online safety, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Kind regards,



Mr. Tomlinson  
Head Teacher/Designated Safeguarding Lead

