



Barmby Moor CE Primary School

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Executive Headteacher: **Mr J Baxter**



March 2024

Year 5 and 6 Social Media

Dear Parent/Carers,

I hope you are well.

I am writing to advise you of a few concerns that we have regarding children's use of social media outside of school during evenings and weekends. We have been informed of a few issues where children are using abusive and/or threatening language on social media towards each other. Although this has not happened on the school site, it can then affect behaviour, anxiety and subsequently lesson time and the learning of pupils in school.

There is clear guidance on the appropriate age ranges for certain online apps and I would like to draw your attention to these below.

- WhatsApp recently announced a change to their terms and conditions for users based in Europe. Users need to be 16 to use WhatsApp.
- Nearly all other social media services require users to be at least 13 years of age to access and use their services. This includes Facebook, Snapchat, Instagram, Tik Tok and X (formerly Twitter).
- Whilst there is no age restriction for watching videos on YouTube, users need to be 13 or older to have their own YouTube account (enabling them to subscribe to other channels, like videos, post comments, share their own content and flag inappropriate content).

The online world is a minefield for children and the situation has changed significantly in the last 10-15 years, as a whole range of unlimited content, both good and bad is a few clicks away. If you do allow your child to access social media, we ask for your vigilance. Just like their interactions in person, online interactions require supervision and support. What is right will vary from family to family but some strategies that are known to be successful include:

- Monitoring phones for the apps that are downloaded.
- Enacting parental controls on phones and consoles.
- Reviewing the messages children send on platforms and apps – making monitoring part of a daily or weekly routine.

Barmby Moor Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.



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- Setting expectations about what space (preferably communal) and times children have access to devices.
- Encouraging children to share or discuss with you what they are doing.

Once something has been posted on social media, it is very hard to get rid of. Threatening and abusive content could result in police involvement if a child is over the age of 10.

As a school, we will continue to promote the importance of E-Safety as part of our Computing and PSHE curriculum. If we have any concerns in terms of potential cyberbullying outside of school hours, then we will be in contact with parents/carers of those children involved.

Yours sincerely,

J Baxter

Mr J Baxter

Executive Headteacher

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