

# St. Chad's Catholic and Church of England High School

a Specialist Language College & EAL Centre for Halton

## Executive Headteacher

Mr A S Billings BA(Hons) PGCE MA NPQH  
National Leader of Education

## Head of School

Mrs D Burke BA(Hons) PGCE NPQH  
Date 8<sup>th</sup> October 2015

Dear Parents/Carers,

The use of social media by students has at times caused significant disruption to the life of the school. The time which has to be spent investigating social media issues for the purposes of safeguarding students could largely be avoided with better control of its use. The inherent dangers of social media misuse and the need to protect children online means that this issue cannot be avoided and must be taken very seriously by all parents.

We would ask that you carefully consider the following;

- The age restrictions of social media which requires that users comply with legislation. We are aware that Instagram, for example, is used by many year 7 students.
- Whether it is necessary for younger students, even those over the minimum age to use social media at all.
- If your child posts a picture of themselves or information about themselves online, there is no certain way of controlling how that image may be used or by whom.
- The location of phones and internet based devices can be determined by a third party.
- Gaming consoles can be used for social networking across the internet and also have age restrictions for this use.
- If, however, your child is using social media with your consent between the ages of 13-17 the “**Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre**” advises the following;
  - That privacy settings are appropriate and that you have guided them in this
  - That you constantly monitor its use
  - That you know exactly what they are doing online
  - That your email address is the main contact
  - That you discuss the issues with your child and encourage a dialogue where he or she feels able to share anything which they feel unhappy about.

The advice in this communication has been provided in conjunction with our Police School Liaison Officer who has provided the following link.<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/Secondary/What-are-they-doing/Socialising/>

Thank you for your support – please return the reply slip overleaf on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2015 to indicate you have read the letter.

Yours sincerely,



Mr A S Billings, BA(Hons), PGCE, NPQH, MA.  
Executive Headteacher / National Leader of Education



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

# Age Restrictions for Social Media Platforms

**13**

- Twitter
- Facebook
- Instagram
- Pinterest
- Google+
- Tumblr
- Reddit
- Snapchat
- Secret

**14**

- LinkedIn

**16**

- WhatsApp

**17**

- Vine
- Tinder

**18**

- Path

**18 / 13 with parent's permission**

- YouTube
- WeChat
- Keek
- Kik
- Foursquare
- Flickr

Age specified in the platform's terms of service as of 09/2014.

linneyville.com

I have read the letter regarding social media.

Signed ..... (Parent/carer) Date .....

Student..... Tutor .....