

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 8th October 2015

Dear Parents/Carers,

The use of social media by students can cause 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 acknowledge the following;

- The age restrictions of social media which requires that users comply with legislation.
- The minimum age for social media use being 13.
- We would therefore insist that any phone brought into school by any Year 7 student does not have any social media platforms installed.

We would ask that you carefully consider the following;

- That 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.
- The “**Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre**” advises the following;
 - That privacy settings used by children are appropriate and that you have guided them in this
 - That you constantly monitor children’s use of the internet
 - 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 12th 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 and I can confirm that my child under 13 is not using social media.

Signed (Parent/carer) Date

Student..... Tutor/Form.....