



Cheddar Grove Primary School
Cheddar Grove
Bedminster Down
Bristol
BS13 7EN

Tel: 0117 9030418

Headteacher: Paul Jeffery

Email: office@cheddargroveschool.org.uk

Website: <https://www.cheddargroveschool.org.uk>

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E-Safety Update

Dear Parents/Carers,

Unfortunately, we have had several reports of children using social media whilst being away from school. We would like to remind parents about the legal ages for children using social media and the potential harm they can cause when used below the minimum age. We understand that parents may feel a 'pressure' to allow children to use these platforms but would politely remind you of the minimum age ranges and associated dangers. We have included links below to the relevant legal requirements set out by each of the main social media platforms.

Social Media Platform	Minimum Age	Further Information
WhatsApp	13	WhatsApp are raising the age range for their platform to 16 in the near future. Article: https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-43888647
Snap Chat	13	How to talk to children about Snap Chat https://home.bt.com/tech-gadgets/internet/social-media/what-is-snapchat-a-safety-guide-for-parents-11364052742537
Instagram	13	How to talk to children about Instagram
Facebook	13	Facebook Safer Internet Centre: https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/social-media-guides/facebook
TikTok	13	TikTok – Parent Guide https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/esafety-news/tik-tok-app-safety-what-parents-need-to-know/

The school provides e-safety education to all children through computing modules, PSHE and Safer Internet Day. However, we recommend parents referring to the following overarching guidance:

Guide	Link	
Parents' Guide To Support - Social Media and the Internet	https://youngminds.org.uk/find-help/for-parents/parents-guide-to-support-a-z/parents-guide-to-support-social-media-and-the-internet/	
Social Media Advice – Internet Matters	https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/social-media-advice-hub/	

Best Wishes

Mr. Unsworth

(Deputy Head Teacher/ E-Safety Lead)