



KINGSHURST PRIMARY SCHOOL

School Close, Kingshurst, Birmingham, B37 6BN

Tel: 0121 788 6510

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www.kingshurst.solihull.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mr A Dawes

RE: Internet/Social Media Usage

Dear Parent/Carer,

As you may be aware, the use of the internet and social media and its effect on young people has become a key topic of discussion in the world of education. Key research shows that young people are accessing social media earlier in their lives, and viewing or contributing to extreme content away from the eyes of appropriate adults.

At Kingshurst, it is vitally important that our families are aware of the context that surrounds social media. After recent changes in legislation, the standard age of consent for a social media platform is 13, meaning **no child should be accessing a social media app or account whilst a pupil at Kingshurst**. For clarity, please see below for more detail on minimum age requirements:

- **Snapchat** – 13 (with adult approval, or 18 without);
- **YouTube** – 13 (16 to live stream with live stream viewing between 13-15 needing to be supervised);
- **Instagram** – 13 (with adult approval, or 18 without);
- **TikTok** – 13 (with adult approval, or 18 without – it is recommended that users are 15+ due to risk of mature content);
- **X (formerly known as Twitter)** – 13 (children below 18 will be shown 'protected posts');
- **Facebook** – 13 (with adult approval, or 18 without);
- **BeReal** – 13 (with adult approval, or 18 without);
- **WhatsApp** – 13 (with adult approval, or 18 without).

It is also very important to note that research carried out by Ofcom reveals that an increasing number of young people below 13 are setting up accounts on social media platforms and giving false ages in order to access unrestricted content. Though there are new restrictions on the most harmful media (following the Online Safety Act, proof of age is needed for content deemed harmful or extreme) it is very easy for your children to access and view content that is mature, inappropriate and bordering on the extreme. Unrestricted access to this content can have terrible implications for your children's health, wellbeing, mental health and their views and ideologies.

I would like to advise all parents and carers to ensure that their **children are not accessing any social media platforms**, as this would represent a breach of the terms of service. If pupils are accessing content through online means, it is vital that it is *under supervised conditions*, so that content can be vetted and conversations take place around the nature of content.

We want school to be a place of learning, community and personal development. We want to ensure that your children can flourish here, beyond the pressures of social media. We want our children to have childhoods that allow them to develop in their own way, at their own pace, free from the potential harmful content which can affect their developing minds in such troubling ways.

Kingshurst Primary School is a nurturing & inclusive community; enabling children to aspire to be the best they can be.





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If issues arise regarding social media usage, we recommend contacting the Police, as we will not deal with issues taking place outside of school on site. We can monitor and intervene if issues affect pupils within school.

I thank you for your support in this – working together, we can keep your children safe from harmful content, supporting them to flourish at Kingshurst.

Yours Faithfully,

Adam Dawes
Headteacher
Kingshurst Primary School

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