



Headteacher Update



2024 - 2025

Online Safety – Thursday 6th March 2025

Dear Parents/carers,

We are once again seeing an increase in the number of WhatsApp messages being sent between Old Basford School pupils outside of school hours. As a school, we do not deal with any issues outside of school however we will support parents in making sure the correct online safety settings are applied and the educational awareness is in place for all pupils.

WhatsApp, as well as other social media apps have age limits for a reason. The following table states the app and its age limit requirements:

13 is the minimum age for account holders on these social media sites and apps.

- X (formerly Twitter)
- Facebook
- Instagram
- Pinterest
- Messenger
- TikTok
- Discord
- Snaphat
- Twitch
- Yubo
- Reddit
- YouTube
- BeReal
- WhatsApp

16 is the minimum age for account holders on these social media sites and apps.

- Nintendo Online Account
- Vimeo
- Tumblr

18 is the minimum age for account holders on these social media sites and apps.

- Xbox Live Account
- PSN Online Account

<p>3 PEGI 3</p> <p>Games with a PEGI 3 rating are suitable for all ages.</p> <p>They may have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> child-like settings comical violence language more suitable for young children <p>For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Just Dance FIFA DiRT Rally Animal Crossing 	<p>7 PEGI 7</p> <p>Games with a PEGI 7 rating are suitable for ages 7 and above.</p> <p>They may have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> some scenes or sounds that could be frightening mild forms of violence (non-realistic or with no detail) <p>For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minecraft Roblox Among Us Lego Series 	<p>12 PEGI 12</p> <p>Games with a PEGI 12 rating are suitable for ages 12 and above.</p> <p>They may have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> violence of a slightly graphic nature involving fantasy characters suggestive activities or language gambling mild bad language <p>For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sims Fortnite Dragon Ball FighterZ Super Smash Bros. Ultimate 	<p>16 PEGI 16</p> <p>Games with a PEGI 16 rating are suitable for ages 16 and above.</p> <p>They may have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> violence and adult content that looks like real life bad language scenes demonstrating the use of tobacco, alcohol or illegal substances <p>For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marvel's Avengers Battlefield 2042 Halo Infinite Marvel's Spider-Man 	<p>18 PEGI 18</p> <p>Games with a PEGI 18 rating are suitable for ages 18 and above.</p> <p>They may have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> extreme violence explicit adult content the glamorised use of illegal substances <p>For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Call of Duty: Warzone Grand Theft Auto V Far Cry 3 Blood Dragon
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Pupils are choosing to use WhatsApp for communicating with each other, despite it having a 13-age rating. Parents, if you have made the choice to allow your child to use What's app (or other social media platforms despite age recommendations), please make sure that all settings are of the highest security and that you are checking your child's phone on a regular basis to make sure that they are not sending or receiving inappropriate, harmful messages from friends or people that they do not know. Please also make sure that when checking the settings this includes 'location' settings including 'Snap Maps' as this does allow other people to see where your child is, which can be very dangerous.

If you are unsure of how you can set up security parental controls on your child's phone or have any questions that you would like answering, please use the following websites as form of support:

- www.net-aware.org.uk - This website has some fantastic resources and videos to support discussions with children.
- www.internetmatters.org/resources/esafety-leaflets-resources - This website has videos and parent guides to support your understanding about age appropriate screen time, gaming, online bullying and general online safety.
- www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers - This website can support with setting parental controls and developing knowledge of social media sites.
- www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/talking-child-online-safety - The website gives you advice on how to tackle difficult conversations with your child about online safety.

As a part of our online safety curriculum, all pupils are taught about keeping safe online. For our youngest children, we include work on not sharing passwords and 'stranger danger' and with the older year groups we discuss issues such as, the rule 'what is put online stays online' and the digital footprint that they will then have as adults. These lessons are discussed in an age of appropriate way and we use the NSPCC material to support our delivery.

A final reminder, mobile phones are not allowed in school unless there is a prior agreement in writing with myself. If a child has a phone in school without permission, parents will be asked to come and collect it from school.

Once again, I ask that every parent supports our community to keep children safe at Old Basford School both in person and online.

Mrs Duffin
Headteacher