



Dear Parents/Carers

Parkside Middle School is committed to keeping our children safe and promoting the safe and responsible use of the internet. As such we feel it is our responsibility to raise this particular issue as a concern as we are having to deal with e-safety issues on a daily basis.

As you may be aware, the misuse of social media is a nationwide issue. Recently we have been made aware of a variety of incidents relating to misuse, sometimes by our pupils and at other times where our pupils have been a victim of such misuse. Indeed, the most inappropriate misuse of the internet is carried out at home or on pupils' mobile phones or tablets during weekends, evenings and holidays.

It should be noted that, in some cases, the children are putting themselves at considerable risk due to the misuse of social media, giving their personal details and posting pictures of themselves. We are also concerned with the number of children presenting as extremely tired due to the fact that they are playing on their devices through the night. We are continuing to work in school to highlight these risks to our pupils. **The responsibility for monitoring a child's use of social media and the internet in general lies with parents/carers.**

As a school we encourage you to share concerns with us so we can support you in any issues that arise. Often the issues that occur stem from our pupils accessing apps or sites that they are under the legal age to use. I have included a table with the most common sites used and their age restrictions for you.

AGE	13	14	16	17	18	18 (13 with adult consent)
Platform	Twitter	Linkedin	WhatsApp	Vine	Path	YouTube
	Facebook					Kik
	Instagram					Flickr
	Google +					
	Tumblr					
	Tik-Tok					
	Snapchat					
	Musical.ly					

As a school we will:

- Continue to promote positive use of the internet and social media through assemblies, displays and SEAL time.
- Monitor the use of ICT during normal school hours and deal with any inappropriate use.
- Continue to support parents with advice on how to tackle inappropriate use, either by their own child or others.

We also recommend that all parents/carers visit the CEOP Think U Know website for more information on keeping your child safe online [www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk). Additional support can be found at <https://www.childnet.com/resources/supporting-young-people-online> or <https://www.childnet.com/resources/parents-and-carers-resource-sheet>

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support with this matter.

Yours faithfully

The Inclusion Team