



Winklebury Federation

Willoughby Way, Basingstoke, Hants RG23 8AF

Head of Federation: Mrs S. Mathlin

Tel: 01256 323244

E-mail: adminoffice@winklebury-inf.hants.sch.uk

E-mail: adminoffice@winklebury-jun.hants.sch.uk

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Use of Social Media by children and inappropriate websites

Dear Parents,

It has been brought to our attention that some of the children in Year 5 have been using social media and or computer games to make hurtful comments to other children.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind all parents that most of the social media apps involved have an age rating of 13. This includes, Whatsapp, Instagram, Tik Tok and House Party. The fact that children have these accounts means they have been set up with fake dates of birth or they are using a siblings/parents account.

When something happens on social media out of school, we do not have any authority to deal with this. However, we will always follow up on incidents if they have an impact on the children in school and we will inform parents when we are made aware their child has acted inappropriately online.

We have also been made aware that some children have been telling others to look up some disturbing inappropriate content on the internet when they get home. These children and parents have been spoken to but I would strongly recommend that all parents check their children's search history regularly and that you install parental controls.

Through our computing curriculum we regularly advise children about what is appropriate for their age and would like to remind parents that children should not have unsupervised access to these accounts. It is the responsibility of parents to check what their children are posting/sending.

If your child has received messages that you do not feel are appropriate please report it to the relevant site.

Finally please make use of the following websites which have lots of useful information for parents <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/> and <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers>.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs S Mathlin
Head of Federation