Saltford
CofE Primary School

Saltford CofE Primary School
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Headteacher: Dawn Sage
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26th February 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

Over the course of the year we have become increasingly aware that some children are using social messaging apps such as 'WhatsApp', 'Snapchat' and 'TikTok' even though the minimum age to use these services is 13 years old (16 years old for WhatsApp) according to their sites' terms and conditions. We feel that the use of these by children has potential online safety implications for them.

Our school is committed to safe and responsible use of technology, and as such, feel that it is our responsibility to raise this as a concern. This follows discussions that we had with the children as part of Safer Internet Day on Tuesday 6th February, when we talked about how the children are using the internet and what they are doing to keep themselves safe online.

Social media and communication devices are not used in school, and our internet access is filtered so that such sites are blocked. Outside of school hours, parents are responsible for what children access and how they interact online, and we would strongly recommend that you discuss with your child what they are using and monitor their online activity.

Online safety is an important part of the school's computing curriculum, and you can see the kinds of activities the children take part in on the "Computing" section of the school's website.

We appreciate your support in encouraging your children to use their technology safely and responsibly. If you would like more information on age limits for apps, the following link has an easy-to-follow guide and the second link has information on TikTok.

https://safesmartsocial.com/app-guide-parents-teachers/

https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/esafety-news/tik-tok-app-safety-what-parents-need-to-know/

Kind regards

D. E. Sage

Mrs Sage
Headteacher

Futura
Learning Partnership