



Eastbury Farm Primary School

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Internet Safety – Social Networking Sites

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Internet safety is more important now than it has ever been for children. We are living in an age of social media and the influences it has on children's lives. It is vitally important that parents have all the information to support their children with using the internet safely and responsibly.

Social media has become one of the most popular aspects of the internet. Many children across the country have at least one social media account. Research shows that although many social media companies require an age limit of 13, a vast majority of children as young as 8 have a social media account. These age limits have been put in place to ensure that children are of an age where they can use it responsibly and safely.

Examples of social media sites and their age limits:

Facebook – **Age limit of 13. Children need to put their birth date in.**

Instagram – **Age limit of 13. Children do not need to put their birth date in.**

Twitter – **Age limit of 13. Children do not need to put their birth date in.**

Snapchat – **Age limit of 13. Children need to put their birth date in.**

Musical.ly – **Age limit of 13. Children do not need to put their birth date in.**

Whatsapp – **Age limit of 16. Children do not need to put their birth date in.**

As you can see, although age limits are set, many of the social media companies do not follow up or check the ages of their users. It is therefore important for adults to monitor children's activity while they are online.

As a school, we feel it is important that we support parents in their understanding of children's internet safety.

Useful websites for more information:

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/networks/?order=title>

<http://parentzone.org.uk/advice/social-media-apps>

Please feel free to contact the school if you have any concerns about internet safety or need any further guidance.

Warm regards

Miss R Workman
Headteacher