



Kensington Community Primary School

Brae Street
Liverpool L7 2QG
Head Teacher Kitty Davies

Telephone 0151 263 6429
schooladmin@kensingtonprimary.co.uk

Fax 0151 261 0337

Dear Parent/Carer,

Snapchat/TikTok/WhatsApp and keeping your child safe

As it is National Internet Safety Day, I felt it was the best day to send out some information regarding Snapchat/TikTok/WhatsApp. Please note, the permitted minimum age to use these social media apps is **13 years old**.

Kensington Community Primary School is committed to keeping children safe and to promoting the safe, responsible use of the internet. As such, we have a duty to raise this as a concern.

We are regularly dealing with issues in school that have started on these apps (e.g. bullying, sharing of inappropriate language, content and images and children being excluded) and whilst we will always do our best to support your children, we ask for your support with this matter.

You may be told that 'everyone at school is on it', but this is not true and equally does not negate the risks of underage use – for example the Internet Watch Foundation finds younger and younger children each year being sexually abused on apps while in the perceived safety of their own bedrooms.

The best way to help with this and avoid arguments, is to use Google Family Link or Apple Screen Time to restrict apps on devices that children have access to, so that they turn off after a certain time or at bedtime, and that any apps have to be approved. Find out more at parentsafe.lgfl.net.

Remember these apps have a minimum age restriction of 13 years. Often the content available on these apps can be more suited to over 18s (pornography, violent content etc.). Algorithms **will** expose your child to advertising and inappropriate/harmful/fake content and the risk of contact with strangers. As app members are not verified, if your child can lie about their age (and anything else about their identity) and who they are online, so can anyone else! In an age-appropriate way, help your child to understand the risks of going on these apps.

We recommend you speak to your child about the apps they want to use, why they want to use them, and get them to show them to you and explain what the basic online safety rules are - which we teach at school.

What other ways can children communicate with their friends, without using these inappropriate apps? How can you support them with this? What communication skills do they need help to develop e.g. making phone calls, sending emails, understanding etiquette of communications both online and offline etc?

If you feel that you, or your child, needs further support in keeping safe online, please contact your class teacher who will be able to discuss your concerns further.

With thanks for your continued support,

Mrs K. Davies

Mrs K Davies
Head Teacher