Stanwick Primary
Online Safety

September 2022

WhatsApp

You must be at least 16 years old to register for and use WhatsApp. WhatsApp is a free messaging app that allows users to send messages and videos.

Group chats: One of the key features is that WhatsApp has a group chat function that is set up by one person (the admin). Everybody in the group, even if they are not one of your child's phone contacts, will be able to see all messages within that group. Please be aware that if your child is added to a group with someone that they have previously blocked, that person can still see their messages and send them messages within the group.

By using settings, you can change who can add your child to groups; you can change it to 'my contacts', meaning that only those in your child's contacts can add them to a group. You can leave a group chat at any point so talk to your child and encourage them to leave any chat that they don't want to be in or that makes them feel uncomfortable.

Location sharing: If this is switched on, when you share images/videos, it will show the location of where they were taken. You have the ability to switch this off in your phone settings. There is also a Live Location feature which allows you to share your location. Talk to your children about when this would be appropriate to use but also explain the potential dangers of sharing their location, for example with strangers.

Blocking/Reporting: Show your child how to block and report.

Online Bullying: WhatsApp has been used in instances of online bullying, e.g., to send malicious messages or share images of other children without their permission. It is important to have regular chats with your child about their activities online and make sure that they understand that they can and must talk to you or another trusted adult if they are being bullied or if they are in any way worried about anything that they have seen online. This is a helpful article from BullyingUK, which talks about what to do if you are being bullied: https://www.bullying.co.uk/cyberbullying/what-to-do-if-you-re- being-bullied-on-a-social-network/

Be Kind - Treat others online how you would want to be treated. How we behave online should be the same as how we behave face to face. This YouTube video from Dr Linda Papadopoulos tells us how we can encourage our children to be kind online: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1BqKi3J7g6Q

TikTok

You must be over 13 years of age to use TikTok. Some of the videos on TikTok may contain explicit language and sexual imagery which may not be suitable for your child to view and there is also the risk of strangers contacting your child. If your child is using TikTok then make sure the appropriate security/privacy settings are turned on.

We recommend setting the account as private, this is the default setting for users under 16 since January 2021. However, even with a private account your child's profile information such as their photo remain visible so ensure your child understands the importance of not including personal information, for example, location, age and phone numbers - to this area.

For further information on *privacy settings and features*, please click here

Family pairing allows you to link your own account to your child's account, you can then set control such as *restricted mode, limiting the appearance of inappropriate content and screen time management*; you can find out more by clicking here

Please ensure that your child knows how to block unwanted users. For help with blocking people click here

Online Challenges and Hoaxes

Online challenges in the past few years have become an important trend to be aware of. Online challenges generally involve users recording themselves taking a challenge and then distributing the video through social media channels inspiring or daring other to repeat the challenge.

Many types of online challenges can range from harmless and silly to upsetting and dangerous and have resulted in serious physical injury.

For further information, please follow this **link** from the government.

Reassure your child that challenges that suggest that bad things will happen if they do not complete the tasks are not real. Talk to your child about hoaxes and challenges that they might see on the internet. Some challenges are fun and provide no risk, however there will be challenges that are not safe. Your child may see others complete certain challenges online without being harmed and therefore may want to repeat them and not think about the potential risks to themselves. Make sure they know that they should talk to you or a trusted adult, about what they see online, particularly if they plan to try a challenge or if something scares or upsets them.

The following links will provide you with further information as well as content to help you talk to your child:

• Thinkuknow.co.uk

• TikTok have produced this resource to help you talk to your child about challenges and the potential risks:

www.tiktok.com/safety/en-sg/online-challenges/

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into.

YouTube

YouTube is intended for users over the age of 13 however the App Store rates YouTube at 17+ due to the content that can be found on there.

How can you make YouTube safer for your child?

Turn on restricted mode as this restricts the availability of mature content. You will need to set up a Google account to do this. Explore YouTube together and see what your child likes to watch - make sure your child understands that they can talk to you if they view anything online that makes them feel uncomfortable.

Ensure your child knows to report inappropriate content to you or a trusted adult.

YouTube recommends that YouTube kids is used for children under the age of 13. Find out more here

Posting Videos

You should be over 13 years of age to post videos. Talk to your child about posting videos - do they understand what information they should keep private? Remember that if you see inappropriate comment please report it - you have the option to turn off comments on videos that you post.

Screen time

It is important to set limits for your child to ensure a balance between being online and off-line. It is recommended that devices are switched off prior to bedtime and not left in the bedroom.

For further help and advice, please visit Internet Matters.org by clicking here