

St Mary's Farnham Royal Church of England Primary School



We aspire to grow as a community through FAITH as a FAMILY.
Thriving for all our FUTURES enabling us to FLOURISH

Dear Parents,

As we are all aware, ensuring our children are safe online and teaching them to be aware of the dangers associated with this has become a vital part of our role as parents and educators.

It has again been brought to our attention that many pupils in Year 6 have access to online social media platforms such as What's App, TikTok, Discord and others that do have age restrictions of 13 +. These restrictions are there for a reason and are there to safeguard children from being exposed to cyberbullying, inappropriate discussions and online abuse etc.

It may seem that all children are using these methods of communication and that you feel that these sorts of things would not happen to your children, and indeed we would like to think that through our robust E-Safety teaching across the school that by the time pupils reached Year 6 they would have developed skills to help keep themselves safe and be socially responsible users. But this is not always the case and if you are allowing your children access to such platforms then they are having access to environments that are not suited to their current age and where they are in danger of exposure to such issues.

In light of this, it is the correct and responsible thing for us as a school to ask you as parents not to allow your children access to such platforms until they are age appropriate. (13+ in most cases) If you do choose to allow access to such platforms knowing that your children are not age appropriate, that you do monitor and investigate conversations and images that are being shared in these environments. We are concerned about what children have experienced and tell us they have experienced and would ask you to do all you can to ensure the safety of the children.

We have a useful section on the SMFR website to help support parents with all aspects of Online Safety.

<https://www.stmarysfarnhamroyal.org/digital-wellbeing-online-safety/>

I have also attached some useful guides for parents linked to age restrictions and cyberbullying. You can find further links and information through the SMFR website.

Thank you.

It is a responsibility that we all share and you have any concerns or if we can help then please do come and talk to us.

Mr J Farmer

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