



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

Monday 10th June 2024

Dear Parents,

Over the past few weeks we have seen a growing number of concerns shared with us around pupils across the school (and sadly I do have to include even Key Stage 1 children in this) using Mobile Phones, Social Media and Online Gaming to cause upset to others. This has reached a point where I feel we need to write to you all to share these concerns so you can closely monitor what is happening for your child online or as part of a group chat/call and be aware of what is and is not appropriate for primary school children, in order to protect our children from harm.

I am sure that we are all aware that there are **age restrictions** on social media and that these are there for a reason. (These age restrictions can be seen in the picture below). However, there are many children in our school that are using these platforms – Tik Tok, What's App, Snapchat and Discord in particular – as part of groups with friends or friends of friends and this has caused them to become open to online bullying, inappropriate language and images. These groups may seem harmless at the beginning but we have seen a rise in the number of

pupils using these groups that are reporting concerns, worries and incidents of bullying and inappropriate language and even threats – **Please do the responsible thing and remove access to these platforms for your children until they reach the appropriate age recommended.**

We have also been made aware of and are regularly seeing evidence spilling over into school of the effects of excessive and inappropriate online gaming culture that has developed amongst some of our pupils.

Age Restrictions for Social Media Platforms
What is the minimum age for account holders on these social media sites and apps?



We are aware that there are some pupils that are not only spending hours and hours playing online but that they are accessing games that are not age appropriate and are being exposed to inappropriate language that would not be used in an open social setting and incidents that are spilling over into the 'real world' that are being seen in school. Parents and children are encouraged to report these incidents to the right authorities and this can and rightly does lead to the police and other authorities becoming involved if necessary.

Many parents already monitor their children's online use/game play/mobile activity and that is the responsible and safe thing for us all to do. Removing access may not be the correct action but having agreed time limits and boundaries around games and friends we interact with online is more likely to develop an open and safe culture where children will be open about their lived experiences. **But if you are allowing children to access these platforms and use these devices then it is you that is responsible for what they do and see, as they are children.**



Mr Shane Broderick – Headteacher
Mr James Farmer - Deputy Headteacher
St Mary's Farnham Royal C E Primary School
Church Road, Farnham Royal, Buckinghamshire SL2 3AW
Telephone: 01753 644471
website: www.stmarysfarnhamroyal.org
email: office@smfr.co.uk [@stmarysfarnhamroyal](https://www.facebook.com/stmarysfarnhamroyal) [@stmarysfr1](https://www.instagram.com/stmarysfr1)





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

We are here to help and, in that light, have many useful resources on our SMFR website that can help parents to understand further how to keep children safe and protect them. I have added an excellent virtual NSPCC Parent Workshop that is a particularly useful watch for us all.

<https://stmarysfarnham.ovw3.juniperwebsites.co.uk/page/?title=Digital+Wellbeing+%26amp%3B+Online+Safety&pid=187&action=saved>

These are also some useful links for parents to be aware of.

Websites

[www.https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/) Vital resource for all parents
www.thinkuknow.co.uk – Visit the “Parent/Carer” Section and use the “Click CEOP” button to seek advice

www.childnet.com – Visit the ‘Know It All’ Section for an interactive guide about online safety

www.getsafeonline.org – Free up-to-date Security advice, age specific advice

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/webwise/0/> - This is an archived site from the BBC

<https://www.common sense media.org/> - Excellent advice about Internet Safety

[www.https://www.stmarysfarnhamroyal.org/digital-wellbeing-online-safety/](https://www.stmarysfarnhamroyal.org/digital-wellbeing-online-safety/) - Digital Wellbeing and Online Safety section of the SMFR website.

We are always here to help moving forward so please do make contact if there are any particular concerns you may need help with.

Thank you

Mr J Farmer
Deputy Head Teacher

Mr Shane Broderick – Headteacher
Mr James Farmer - Deputy Headteacher
St Mary's Farnham Royal C E Primary School
Church Road, Farnham Royal, Buckinghamshire SL2 3AW
Telephone: 01753 644471

website: www.stmarysfarnhamroyal.org
email: office@smfr.co.uk [f](https://www.facebook.com/stmarysfarnhamroyal): @stmarysfarnhamroyal [i](https://www.instagram.com/stmarysfr1): @stmarysfr1

