



**St Patrick's**  
Catholic Voluntary Academy

**ST. PATRICK'S CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY.**  
Coronation Avenue, Wilford, Nottingham NG11 7AB  
☎ 0115 9152961  
**Email:** admin@st-patricks.nottingham.sch.uk  
**Website:** www.st-patricks.nottingham.sch.uk



**Headteacher:** Miss L Ferrara

### Social media/WhatsApp

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are writing to share with you guidance regarding the use of online social media and messaging platforms, in response to a small number of issues that have arisen regarding social media outside of school during evenings and weekends.

Whilst normally school would not intervene with accessing online platforms at home, when online usage impacts children learning and relationships within the classroom, school will always endeavour to support and advise.

We do appreciate the benefits of technology however social media can sometimes be a platform for children to be unkind using messaging services such as **WhatsApp** to create groups and group chats.

Most Social media apps are for pupils **13 years** and over. If you do allow your child to access social media, we ask for your vigilance. Just like their interactions in person, online interactions require supervision and support. What is right will vary from family to family but some strategies that are known to be successful include:

- Monitoring children's phones for the apps that are downloaded.
- Enacting parental controls on phones and consoles.
- Reviewing the messages they send on platforms and apps – making monitoring part of a daily or weekly routine.
- Setting expectations about what space (preferably communal) and times they have access to devices.
- Encouraging children to share or discuss with you what they are doing.

Thank you for your cooperation and support. If school can help in any way, please do not hesitate to contact the office.

A helpful guide on settings for various apps is attached.

Kind Regards,

Miss Moody

Year 6 Class Teacher

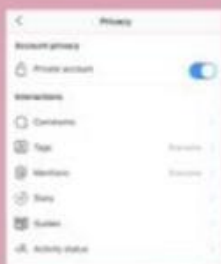
# Social Media Settings



Most social media apps are 13+ (WhatsApp is 16+) but - as we are aware some children are using them regularly - we wanted to share some important settings to keep children safe online.



## Instagram



**PRIVATE ACCOUNT:** when this is on, only followers can see your posts and stories and you have to approve followers  
**(recommended: on)**

**COMMENTS, TAGS, MENTIONS, STORY:** allows you to control who can tag you, comment on your posts, mention you in their story and control your story audience

You can also restrict, block or report a user by clicking on their profile and selecting the three dots in the top right.

You can also remove a follower using this method.



## TikTok



**PRIVATE ACCOUNT:** when this is on, only followers can see your posts and you have to approve followers  
**(recommended: on)**

**SAFETY:** TikTok has lots of options to restrict contact and interaction with video posts  
**(recommended: friends)**

**COMMENT FILTERS:** you can automatically hide comments that may have offensive words in  
**(recommended: on)**

You can also block, report or remove a follower by clicking on their profile and clicking the three dots in the top right hand corner.



## WhatsApp



**PROFILE PHOTO AND STATUS:** You can change who can see a profile photo and status  
**(recommended: my contacts)**

**GROUPS:** allows you to stop a contact being able to add you to groups  
**(recommended for when a friend adds you without permission)**

**BLOCKED:** can add a contact to a blocked list so they can't message you.

You can also block or report a contact/number by clicking on the chat with them, clicking on their number/name at the top then scrolling down!



## Snapchat



**CONTACT:** decide who can message you and send you snaps  
**(recommended: my friends)**

**VIEW MY STORY:** restrict who can see your story  
**(recommended: my friends)**

**GHOST MODE:** if this isn't on, contacts can see your location on a map  
**(recommended: on)**

You can also block or report a user by locating their contact, tapping and holding their name and clicking more