

Friday 4th July 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

Online safety

We wrote to you in April to highlight the importance of online safety. I feel that I need to bring to your attention the issues that we are currently having at school over the use of social media apps outside of school hours.

We have been informed of a few issues where children are using abusive and threatening language on social media towards each other. Even though this activity is not happening on the school site, it then affects behaviour, anxiety and subsequently lesson time and the learning of pupils in school.

We cannot regulate the online access that pupils have outside school, but if an issue of cyberbullying is reported to us, we have a duty of care to inform the parents of the children involved.

There is clear guidance on the appropriate age ranges for certain online apps and I would like to draw your attention to these. WhatsApp recently announced a change to their terms and conditions for users based in Europe. Users need to be 16 to use WhatsApp. Nearly all other social media services require users to be at least 13 years of age to access and use their services. This includes Facebook, Snapchat, Twitter, Instagram, Tik Tok, Musical.ly and Skype. Whilst there is no age restriction for watching videos on YouTube, users need to be 13 or older to have their own YouTube account (enabling them to subscribe to other channels, like videos, post comments, share their own content and flag inappropriate content).

The online world has changed significantly over the last 10-15 years - a whole range of unlimited content, both good and bad is now only a few clicks away. This has resulted in an online world which is a minefield for children and parents! Once something has been posted on social media, it is very hard to get rid of.

I would ask parents therefore, to be vigilant and monitor what children are posting online. There is also a wealth of information online about whether smartphones are detrimental to children due to the fact that they enable access to the internet. If you would like further information about this, please click here: [Smartphone Free Childhood | Beaumont Lodge Primary School](#)

Further information about apps can be found on our website here:

<https://www.beaumontlodge.leicester.sch.uk/wakeupwednesdays/> I would encourage all of you to take the time to read the useful guides.

Yours Sincerely

Mrs Kazi

Deputy Headteacher