

ABBOTSWOOD JUNIOR SCHOOL

'Helping **everyone** achieve their best'

Ringwood Road
Totton
Southampton
SO40 8EB

Telephone: (023) 8086 3159

E-mail: admin.office@abbsch.co.uk

www.abbotswood.hants.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mr G Moore



'It Really Does Matter'

November 2025

Keeping Safe Online

Dear Parents/Carers of Year 6,

As somebody who grew up in an age before social media, I am always amazed at how rapidly technology has moved on in such a short time. Although spending time on social media has become a way of life for many of us, it must be treated with extreme caution, especially for children.

In recent weeks, we have been made aware of inappropriate (and often unkind) use of social media, especially WhatsApp. It is impossible for us to manage and oversee this as it takes place in children's homes. However, we certainly see the impact it has on children when they speak of it in school.

We are particularly concerned with 'random' WhatsApp groups set up by the children where they often have no idea who they are speaking to.

I never wish to preach, yet if your child is currently on social media, has access to a mobile phone or plays interactively on their gaming console, please could you check that they are using it appropriately.

We look at Internet Safety with the children in school and hope you can join us in keeping your children safe online. Please talk to them about what social media is, what rules you have for it, its inherent dangers and how it doesn't always reflect an accurate picture of someone's life. It is also important to remind them about the way they speak to others online.

From research carried out recently, only 4 in 10 parents knew the minimum age requirements for using various social media sites and games. There are so many of them so this is hardly surprising. Unsurprisingly, children are often more aware and knowledgeable than their parents!

These are the age restrictions for some popular social media services:

Social Media Service	Age Restriction
Facebook	13
Snapchat	13
Instagram	13
TikTok	13
WhatsApp	13
YouTube	13 Although parents can set up and monitor a 'YouTube Kids' account for under 13.
Twitch	13 Users between 13-17 are only allowed to use it under the supervision of a parent.
Discord	13

Here are four simple tips on how to navigate the social media world together:

1. Determine if your child is mature enough and ready to join a social media platform.
2. Talk to your children.
3. Limit screen time and monitor their usage.
4. Model good behaviour.

Lastly, go easy on yourself as a parent when it comes to social media and your children. You're not on your own and social media affects everyone of all ages – good and bad.

Reminder

We would love it if you could join us on Tuesday 10th February 2026, 6pm-7.30pm. Papaya will be giving a FREE informative talk about navigating today's digital world.

Thank you,

Mr Glenn Moore
Headteacher