

Bunbury Aldersey CE Primary School

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6th March 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am aware that a number of our Year 5 and 6 children have their own mobile phone. At the end of February, I attended a Safeguarding training session about Digital Safeguarding. As a parent, myself, I am conscious that nowadays most children have mobile phones at an earlier age than previous years and with this comes the responsibility of using it appropriately and with respect to others.

It is clearly not school's decision as to when a child is given a mobile phone nor our responsibility as to what APPs the children are using. I do draw your attention however to the APPS and their Age ratings graphic on the next page.

As a parent and educator however we do often see issues from irresponsible use of mobile phones coming back into school as well as a lack of understanding and appreciation as to how to use a mobile phone responsibly. This lack of understanding can leave our children extremely vulnerable to their peers and online predators. Difficulties can take the form of comments made on social media after school hours, inappropriate messaging, photos and sexting and can lead to much more distressing scenarios developing.

We do also have concerns when we hear of children using APPs which are not age appropriate, not just for what they may say/share with others but what someone they don't know can say/share with them. There are a number of platforms at present which children as young as primary age are using which are not appropriate: Omegle, Discord, Kik, Be Real, Only Fans as well as the more well-known apps of Snapchat, Whats App etc.

We do work with the children about safe use of smart phones/internet through our RSHE sessions on a regular basis but we are also asking that parents are regularly supporting at home with Digital safeguarding.

As a school, we would like to ask for your support in ensuring that your child is using their mobile device responsibly. We ask that conversations and discussions are regularly shared with them about not posting /sharing anything inappropriate or potentially upsetting/damaging towards another child or themselves. Regularly checking their phone would also help. I would also suggest that if your child has a mobile phone/Pad that these are not taken to bedrooms and are kept in a communal, open and visible room in the house.

I would like to draw your attention to the following sites which can be useful starting points when talking to your child about responsible use of social media.

<https://www.vodafone.co.uk/cs/groups/public/documents/webcontent/vfcon096227.pdf>

<https://www.internetmatters.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Internet-Matters-Guide-Official-UK-Social-Media-Guidance.pdf>



Kind regards,

Nic Badger

Nic Badger
School Principal
Executive Headteacher for RCSAT



OpenView
Education
TRAINING THROUGH THEATRE

APPS AND THEIR AGE RATINGS

13+		16+	
	Facebook		WhatsApp
	Instagram		Twitter
	TikTok		Kik
	YouNow		Yubo
	House Party		Monkey
			Sarahah
			YOLO
			MeetMe
			LiveMe