



St Michael and St Martin Catholic Primary School

Belgrave Road, Hounslow, Middlesex TW4 7AG

Headteacher : Mrs N Duggan
Deputy Headteacher : Mrs S Bell
Chair of Governors : Mr Remie Antao



Learning our faith, Living our faith, Loving our faith

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Dear Parent / Carer of children in Yrs 3 - 6

The recent pandemic has increased *everyone's* reliance on technology. As a school, we have been utilising IT as a tool to communicate with you and we continue to set homework in this way for children to maintain their education.

We are aware that children are using technology far more socially since the pandemic and in particular 'Snapchat' has become a very popular app. This along with all other apps have age restrictions meaning that children under the stated age should not be accessing them.

Many adults are not as comfortable with technology and may not be aware of the potential dangers that the internet can pose.

Without appropriate guidance and settings, children may be able to access content that is inappropriate for them to see furthermore, some platforms which children can access are used by adults who wish to communicate with children for sinister purposes.

How to stop it happening:-

- Set appropriate parental controls and use filters for home computers and devices (such as games consoles, tablets and Smart Phones)
- Talk to your child about what they are doing online and ask them to show you the apps and sites they use.
- Ensure your child understands how anyone can copy and share images or messages posted online and the importance of keeping their personal information and images safe.
- Ensure that privacy settings and age restrictions are discussed and in place for the websites and apps that your child uses.
- Ensure that you and your child know how to block and report unwanted images and messages



Telephone number : 020 8572 9658
e-mail : office@stmichaelrc.hounslow.sch.uk
www.stmichaelandstmartin.co.uk
Follow us on Instagram : stmichaelstmartinschool5



Roblox is a particularly popular game, especially as it enables children to connect with and talk with their friends.

Make sure you check in with your child regularly about who they're talking to.

Remind them that conversations should only be about the game, and if someone starts asking them other questions or suggests they speak using another app like Snapchat or Instagram they should tell you.

Explore safety settings together like block, report and mute so your child knows how to stop unwanted contact or end an online chat if it's not about the game.

Be aware that some children use third party chat apps like Discord to communicate with other players while gaming. Make sure to ask your child if they're using any other messaging apps to chat with friends or people they don't know while playing games online.

Please take a look at the guide for parents.

Roblox: A guide for parents

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/blog/roblox-a-guide-for-parents>

For further advice visit you can also visit our Safeguarding and Child protection page on the school website for more information:

[St Michael & St Martin Catholic Primary School Internet Safety Information Page](#)

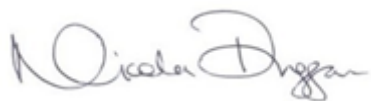
On line Safety Guide:

[NSPCC Talking To Your Child About Internet Safety](#)

Please also find attached for your information a list of popular apps which show age restrictions.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards



Mrs N Duggan
Headteacher



How old do I need to be?

A guide for parents to popular apps and platforms

Many social media and messaging apps have a minimum age of 13+.

This means that children of primary school age should not have their own accounts. Below is a guide to the minimum age to create an account on some of the most popular apps.



WhatsApp

13+

Minimum age is 13.



Snapchat

13+

Accounts under 13 may be terminated.



TikTok

13+

Accounts under 18 have extra protections. Direct messaging is not available under 16.



Instagram

13+

Minimum age is 13. Teen accounts have additional protections.



Facebook

13+

Minimum age is 13.



YouTube

13+*

Minimum age is 13. Under 13s can use YouTube Kids or a parent-supervised YouTube account.



YouTube Kids

Under 13

Designed for younger children with extra protections.



Discord

13+

Minimum age is 13. Age-restricted content is 18+.



Roblox

5+

Accounts can be created from age 5. Different experiences and restrictions apply by age.



Twitch

13+

Minimum age is 13. Under-18s should use with parental supervision.



Pinterest

13+

Minimum age is 13.



Spotify

13+

Account requirements depend on the service/plan and parental arrangements.



Messenger

13+

Minimum age is 13.



Threads

13+

Minimum age is 13.



Reddit

13+

Minimum age is 13.



X (Twitter)

13+

Minimum age is 13.



Remember...

- An app's App Store age rating is not the same as the minimum age to create an account.
- Children may still be able to view content without an account, but this can still carry risks.
- Parental controls and supervision are essential for any apps or online platforms.



Talk, check and support

- Talk to your child about what they do online.
- Check age requirements and privacy settings.
- Use parental controls where available.
- Encourage open conversations – let your child know they can always come to you if something online worries them.



Keep primary age children safe

All children at St Michael & St Martin are below the minimum age for most social media and messaging apps, including WhatsApp, Snapchat, TikTok, Instagram, Facebook and Discord.

We strongly advise that primary-aged children do not have their own accounts.



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A brighter world
together