



Pennaeth / Headteacher: Miss N Downes

Ffôn / Tel: (01443) 670 319

E:-Bost / E:-Mail: admin@yggtonyrefail.rctcbc.cymru

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to inform you of concerns that have recently arisen regarding the **inappropriate use of social media by a small number of pupils** within Years 5 and 6. This includes the sharing of unkind written and voice messages.

Whilst this behaviour has occurred **outside of school**, the impact is felt in school and affects pupils' wellbeing, friendships and relationships. We expect all pupils to **use social media respectfully**, we feel it is important to raise this with you.

Social Media Age Restrictions (UK)

Many popular social media platforms have **minimum age requirements** which children must meet in order to hold an account. These limits are set by the companies themselves and are an important safeguarding measure:

- **WhatsApp – minimum age 13**
- **TikTok – minimum age 13**
- **Facebook – minimum age 13**
- **YouTube – minimum age 13 to hold an account**

*(Children under 13 should use **YouTube Kids**, which has additional safety controls.)*

Children who access these platforms before reaching the legal age **do not benefit from full safeguarding protections**, such as default privacy settings, content filtering and restrictions on contact from unknown users.

How Parents Can Support

We kindly ask parents and carers to:

- **Check regularly** which apps your child is using and whether they meet age requirements
- **Monitor messages, group chats and online interactions** where appropriate
- **Talk openly** with your child about respectful and responsible online behaviour
- Remind children that **messages and images shared online can have lasting consequences**
- Encourage children to **tell a trusted adult** if they receive upsetting or inappropriate messages

We regularly address online safety in school, emphasising **kindness, respect and responsible behaviour** in digital spaces. These messages are most effective when reinforced at home.

Online Safety Support and Guidance for Parents

The following trusted resources provide practical advice, parental guidance and support:

- **Hwb – Keeping Safe Online (Welsh Government)**
<https://hwb.gov.wales/keeping-safe-online>
- **NSPCC – Online Safety for Parents**
<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety>
- **Internet Matters – Parent Guides & App Controls**
<https://www.internetmatters.org>
- **Parent Zone – Support for Parents and Carers**
<https://parentzone.org.uk>

These sites include guidance on app age ratings, parental controls, privacy settings, managing group chats and how to talk to children about staying safe online.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us keep all pupils safe and supported.

Diolch yn fawr

N.Downes