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Head of School: Mrs M Hendry  
B.Ed. (Hons) QTS

**"Encourage one another and build each other up" 1 Thessalonians 5.11**

Dear Parents/Carers,

### **Concerns About Social Media Use Outside of School**

We want to share some concerns about children's use of social media outside of school. We've noticed that some pupils are using platforms like Snapchat to be unkind to others. This includes sharing hurtful comments or pictures about other pupils. This behaviour is causing upset and division among children, which does not align with the values we promote at school.

Please remember that most social media apps are meant for children aged 13 and over. If you allow your child to use social media, we kindly ask you to keep an eye on their online activity. Just like their behaviour in school, their online interactions need to be guided and supported. Every family is different, but here are some helpful tips:

- Monitor the apps they have on their phones
- Set up parental controls on devices like phones and consoles
- Review the messages they send on apps—make this a regular part of your routine
- Set clear rules about when and where they can use their devices (ideally in a shared family space)
- Encourage them to talk to you about what they are doing online

We value your partnership in addressing this issue, as it is happening outside of school hours. A similar message has been shared with the children in Year 5/6 today regarding their online behaviour and conduct.

Attached is a guide with helpful tips on settings for different apps.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely,  
Mrs Hendry and Mr Conlan

The Blue Kite Academy Trust

10 Ferndale Primary and Nursery School

Wiltshire Avenue, Swindon, SN2 1NX

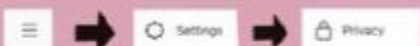
# Social Media Settings



Most social media apps are 13+ (WhatsApp is 16+) but - as we are aware some children are using them regularly - we wanted to share some important settings to keep children safe online.



## Instagram



**PRIVATE ACCOUNT:** when this is on, only followers can see your posts and stories and you have to approve followers **(recommended: on)**

**COMMENTS, TAGS, MENTIONS, STORY:** allows you to control who can tag you, comment on your posts, mention you in their story and control your story audience

You can also restrict, block or report a user by clicking on their profile and selecting the three dots in the top right.

You can also remove a follower using this method.



## Tiktok



**PRIVATE ACCOUNT:** when this is on, only followers can see your posts and you have to approve followers **(recommended: on)**

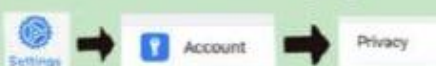
**SAFETY:** Tiktok has lots of options to restrict contact and interaction with video posts **(recommended: friends)**

**COMMENT FILTERS:** you can automatically hide comments that may have offensive words in **(recommended: on)**

You can also block, report or remove a follower by clicking on their profile and clicking the three dots in the top right hand corner.



## WhatsApp



**PROFILE PHOTO AND STATUS:** You can change who can see a profile photo and status **(recommended: my contacts)**

**GROUPS:** allows you to stop a contact being able to add you to groups **(recommended for when a friend adds you without permission)**

**BLOCKED:** can add a contact to a blocked list so they can't message you.

You can also block or report a contact/ number by clicking on the chat with them, clicking on their number/name at the top then scrolling down!



## Snapchat



**CONTACT:** decide who can message you and send you snaps **(recommended: my friends)**

**VIEW MY STORY:** restrict who can see your story **(recommended: my friends)**

**GHOST MODE:** if this isn't on, contacts can see your location on a map **(recommended: on)**

You can also block or report a user by locating their contact, tapping and holding their name and clicking more

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**The Blue Kite**  
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