

Social Media



Parent Guide

Highfield Primary School

What is Social Networking?

Social networking allows people access to a 'virtual community', where they have shared interests or simply want to chat to one another. Once an account has been created, you can connect with family and friends through messaging, emails, photo-sharing, events and status updates.

What Social Networks are available?

There are a countless number of social networking sites. Some of the sites children are familiar with include:

- Facebook
- Twitter
- Instagram
- Snapchat
- WhatsApp
- YouTube

Technology is changing all the time, and so it is important that we are up to date with new and upcoming social media outlets and their purpose.

Why do children become involved with social networking?

- Opportunities to communicate with friends, family and people with similar interests.
- Meet new people and plan their social lives.
- Reconnect with people who they have since been disconnected from.
- Share personal lives with one another through photographs, videos and messages.
- Play online games through social networking e.g. PlayStation Network, Xbox Live, etc.

Social Networking Facts

		 Instagram
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Users must be at least 13 years of age. • 2.7 billion people use the site. • You can post comments, share photographs and join groups with similar interests. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Users must be at least 13 years of age. • Allows you to promote something like a brand or personal goals. • It can also be used as a search engine. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Users must be at least 13 years of age. • Allows the user to create and upload images and videos. • People can comment and communicate with you.
		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Users must be at least 13 years of age. • Allows users to exchange pictures and videos, called 'snaps' to one another. • These images and videos are designed to disappear after they have been viewed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Users must be at least 16 years of age. • Allows you to make voice and video calls, as well as messages. • You can share images, documents and even locations with one another. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YouTube requires users to be 18 years of age, but over 13's can sign up with a parent's permission. • Allows users to create, watch and comment on videos.

No children of primary school age should be using any of the above social networking sites.

Ways to promote online safety at home:

- Help them to understand the importance of privacy and their online reputation.
- Limit the amount of time your child spends online.
- Explain to them what is acceptable and not acceptable to share online.
- Encourage your child to be aware of cyberbullies and people who they don't know that want to share contact with them.
- Discuss the risks of sharing passwords with others, even with people whom they trust.
- Encourage them to not use their full name, school or age in online conversations that may help someone locate them offline.
- Tell them to inform you if anything online seems unusual e.g. somebody is trying to contact them that they do not know, or there are images of them online that they haven't posted themselves.
- Remind them that they cannot meet with face to face with people they have met online.
- Help them spot the signs of cyberbullying. There are 5 main types:

-Flaming – online arguments sent via email or messages with offensive, angry or rude language.

-Harassment – repeatedly sending hurtful, insulting messages.

-Denigration – sending or posting gossip or rumours about a person in order to damage their reputation or friendships.

-Impersonation – pretending to be someone else online and sending or posting material to damage their reputations and friendships.

-Pranking – tricking or threatening someone into revealing secrets or embarrassing information then sharing it online.

- Encourage your child to report online activity that they feel is inappropriate, either by talking to you, or an adult that they know and trust in person.
- Always use the privacy and safety setting options on sites that your child may use. These settings may include website blocking, time limits, usage reports and filtering software.

How are we promoting online safety at school?

At Highfield Primary School, children begin learning about online safety from Reception upwards. We follow an online safety scheme which teaches digital literacy and encourages children to become active promoters of a safer digital world. Our scheme follows 8 main areas:



These ‘themes’ are taught in specific year groups, where lessons are appropriately suited to the needs of the children. We value the teaching of online safety as part of our robust computing curriculum, and understand its equal importance alongside other areas such as computer coding and word processing.

The full long term plan can be found on the ‘Computing’ area of the school website, along with examples of work completed by the children.

If you have any questions or queries regarding any aspect of online safety at home or at school, please do not hesitate to contact me via the school office.

Happy Computing!

Linda Harrower

Computing Coordinator