

We the Digital Leaders believe that it is vital that pupils at The Westgate School are safe both inside and outside of school. This is why we have created a guide for parents to keeping your child safe on the internet. We hope that you find this guide helpful.

This booklet contains an overview of the main social media apps that young people commonly use, along with the potential dangers and tips about how to be safer when using them.

Facebook



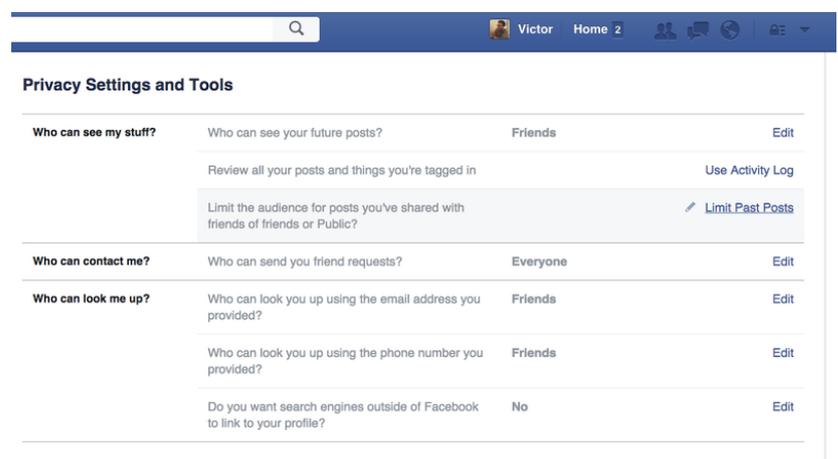
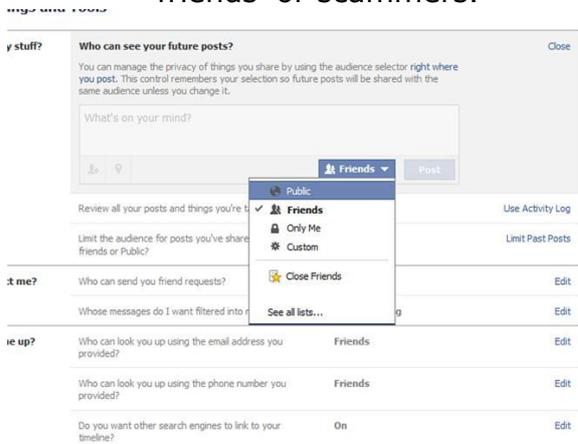
Facebook is a popular, free social networking website or app that allows registered users to create profiles, upload photos and video, send messages and keep in touch with friends, family and colleagues. It also has a messaging app (Facebook Messenger) which can be used for private or group conversations.

Facebook was created as a social media platform to share pictures and make friends. Lots of organisations and companies have Facebook pages and it can be a great way of raising awareness around events and issues.

Possible Dangers:

Facebook has a friends system where users can 'friend' any person they wish to on the site, assuming the new person accepts them. This has become dangerous as people wishing to scam other users can make fake profiles and gain information about their 'friends' with ease. The fact that Facebook allows you to make personal information about yourself public means that identity theft can happen if you share information with the wrong person – it can also put people at risk of being identified and located, especially if you share photos of yourself with an obvious location, or with your school uniform on. Facebook also has advertisements which aren't always legitimate and could contain malware which could damage a computer system.

There are ways to share Facebook posts to friends only or for your eyes only, and you can effectively 'close down' your profile by hiding lots of information – this is done through privacy settings. This can help protect you from unwanted 'friends' or scammers.



Instagram



“Instagram is a mobile, desktop, and Internet-based photo-sharing application and service that allows users to share pictures and videos either publicly or privately.” – Official Instagram website.

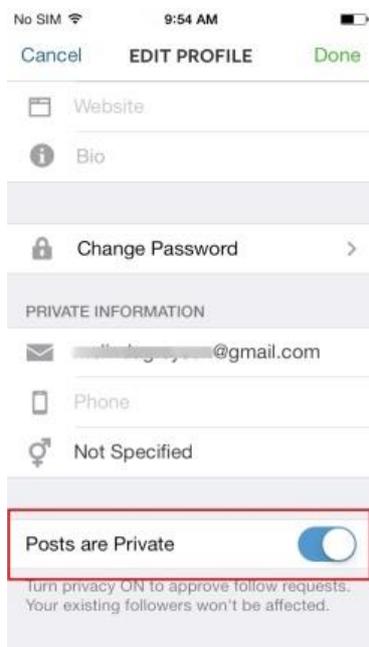
Instagram was created with the intention of letting users instantly share pictures and videos, either publicly or privately.

Possible Dangers.

Like many other types of social media, there are problems that can arise when using Instagram, such as mean behaviour among peers, or from unknown users, and inappropriate photos and videos can attract the wrong kind of attention or hurt a child’s reputation. This is why it is important to make sure that accounts are turned onto private.

How to make Instagram accounts private.

Go onto your account and click on the cog next to where it says “edit Profile” in the top right hand corner. If you scroll down there will be a Private Account label, and that is where you can turn your account onto private. You can also choose whether to enter personal details such as gender and phone number.



Snapchat



“**Snapchat** lets you easily talk with friends, view Live Stories from around the world, and explore news in Discover.” – Official Snapchat website

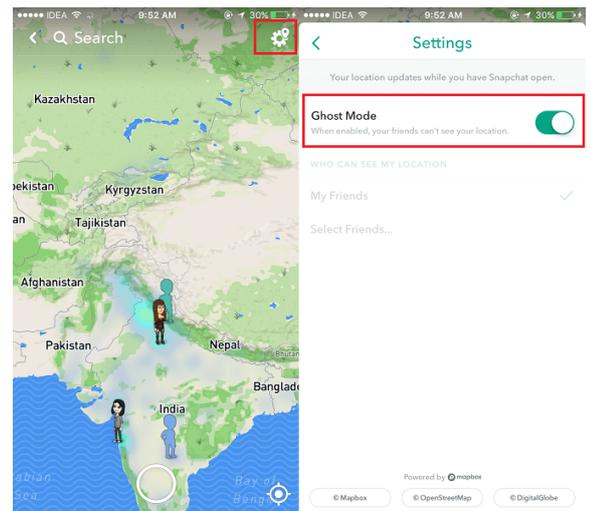
Snapchat was created with the intention of letting users instantaneously send and receive pictures that ‘self-destruct’, so that they are not saved or stored by the person receiving the photo.

Possible Dangers:

Snapchat can be an interactive and fun experience however, if used irresponsibly it may cause problems.

Snap Map

Recently a new feature was implemented into the application, known as Snap Map. This update allowed users to see others’ whereabouts in real life if they are ‘friends’ on the app. However this has caused some concern for parents as this feature could be used inappropriately and in some cases has involved stalking. Luckily there is a way to turn this feature off by entering Snap Map then clicking in the cog in the top right hand corner and turning the setting to “Ghost Mode”.



‘Disappearing’ Photos

Snapchat is famous for having its photos only appear for a limited time so some users may feel they can send any kind of pictures to their friends. However, most smart phones can now take a screenshot of anything being viewed, meaning that photos sent can be saved or shared on any other social media platforms.

Tumblr



Tumblr is a blogging tool, and a social community. You have the opportunity to view, like and re-blog other people's posts, and also create your own post. These posts can come in the form of audio clips, videos, text or chats.

Possible dangers

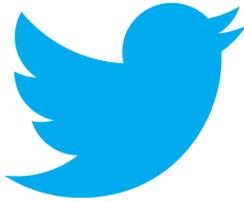
On Tumblr, anyone can contact you, and there is often NSFW (not safe for work) content. It can be very hard to avoid mature content on Tumblr, even if the accounts your child follows are child safe, it is possible that Tumblr may 'recommend' an inappropriate post. Tumblr has however, introduced a safe mode. App users posting 'sensitive' content can label it as such and until you are 18 (according to the age you signed up with) you can't view mature content, or view mature blogs. Parents should be aware that children can declare themselves as being older than they are and so it's a good idea to always set up any social media account **with** your child, so you can explore the privacy settings together.

When setting up a Tumblr account, you can create a private blog, which is a safer option. This way, you can post pictures but only allow those chosen by you to view them.

Tumblr can be a welcome way for older children to communicate with friends but can be dangerous if used incorrectly, or if the correct precautions are not taken.

The screenshot shows the 'Create a new private blog' form on Tumblr. At the top right is a lock icon. Below the title, there is a note: 'This additional blog can be managed by multiple authors or set to private.' A 'Note' states: 'If you want to Like posts or Follow other users with this blog identity, you must log out and create a separate account.' A link for 'Learn more about Primary vs. Secondary blog features here.' is provided. The form has three main sections: 1. 'Title' with a text input field and a small icon, with an example '(e.g. Acme Corp, Sara & Jacob, My Awesome Blog)'. 2. 'URL' with a text input field containing '.tumblr.com' and a note '(you can change this at any time)'. 3. 'Privacy' with a checked checkbox for 'Password protect this blog' and a sub-note 'This blog can only be viewed by people who enter this password.' Below this is a password input field. At the bottom, there is a CAPTCHA section with the question 'Are you a robot?' and an 'I'm not a robot' checkbox. To the right of the checkbox is the reCAPTCHA logo and 'Privacy - Terms' link. At the very bottom are two buttons: 'Create private blog' (blue) and 'Cancel' (grey).

Twitter



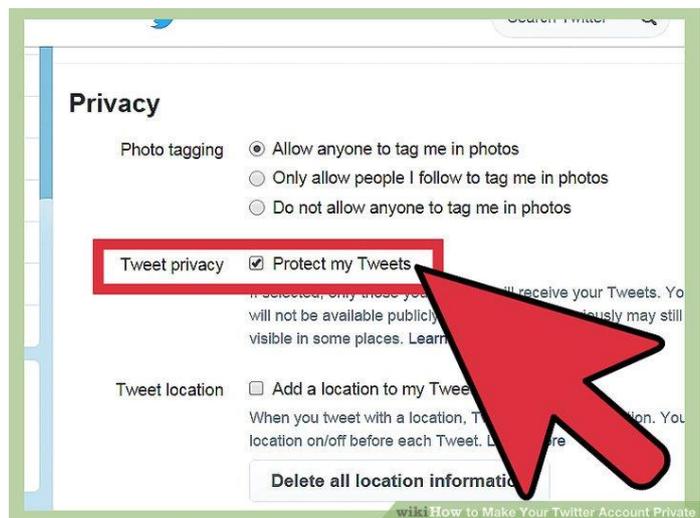
"Twitter is an online news and social networking service where users post and interact with messages, called "tweets." – Twitter Wikipedia page.

Twitter was created with the intention to allow users to talk about thoughts and spread ideas to other people, and comments can only contain a small number of characters, so messages are short and snappy.

The minimum age for Twitter is 13+; it consists of many celebrities, artists, authors, and much more. Whilst making a profile, you're asked for your email address, phone number (this is optional) first name and last name. Your name can be changed later if needs be. Members can post anything as long as it is under 140 characters (280 for select users), there's also a way to access the latest news along with what hashtags are trending.

Possible Dangers

The site itself is quite safe, depending on who you "follow". Anyone can contact you, but you have the ability to accept or decline the message, once you have viewed it. The app allows users to block others, and they will no longer see your posts or be able to contact you. You can also turn accounts to private as demonstrated in the picture to the right.

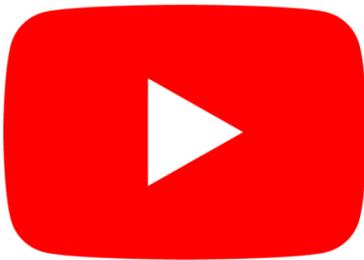


Overall, Twitter is a good social media app, but it would be good to keep an eye on who your child is following and their messages if they have any. It's a great way to find out about daily news and to read what other people are saying. It's not so good to chat to friends however, as it's mainly for speaking your mind.

A few other commonly used apps...



Some of you may already know, but Vine is “officially dead”. It was shut down the 17th of January 2017. That being said, the creator has said that there is a possible sequel on the way. At the time of this writing, there has been no official confirmation of this happening, but to be safe we’ll include it. On Vine you were able to post 7 second videos online for others to see. This started a craze of popular “stars” being born from Vine (most ended up on YouTube after it was shut down). You could make an account, post videos of yourself online for others to see, and weren’t able to turn your profile private. There were no ways to contact others through Vine. That being said, this might change if Vine 2 is ever released.



YouTube is an application for posting videos online. It was the first of its kind to do such a thing when the internet was first made, being created in 2005. You can make a profile for yourself (using google +, an application which is used to log into multiple google applications), and upload videos. The type of videos being made can range from educational to gaming. It has a wide variety of YouTube stars and has started many careers for people. There’s an option in settings on your account to hide inappropriate videos (depending on the age the account is) otherwise it will automatically stop you from watching these videos when you’re not logged in. YouTube do take pride in protecting children, but haven’t been the best of late, so you may need to keep a watchful eye! It’s a great place for learning for all ages.



Amino is an app for “fandoms”. People can create profiles and join groups according to their favourite things, shows, topics etc. In order to sign up, you must enter your date of birth, which will help to filter out anything inappropriate. It’s up to you to decide which groups you join, whether it’s about music, art, sports or your favourite TV shows! The app itself is relatively safe, with moderators and the developers being on the app quite often.

Useful Websites:

<https://netsanity.net/teen-slang-parents-guide/>

This is a useful guide to some of the slang that your child may use, and what to watch out for.

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

Useful information on cyberbullying, sexting and other online issues. You can also report online threats through this website and receive support and quick access to the police if needed.

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/>

Net-aware gives ratings for many popular apps.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/schools-esafety/parent-online-support-pack-teachers/>

A parent pack of useful information for keeping your child safe online.