Age Restrictions for Social Media Platforms

What is the minimum age for account holders on these social media sites and apps?

Under 13

- Roblox
- PopJam
- FaceTime

Parental controls are still required

13+

- Twitter
- Facebook and Messenger
- Viber
- WeChat
- Monkey
- Yubo
- Dubsmash
- Instagram
- TikTok
- Skype
- Google Hangouts
- Reddit
- Snapchat
- Pinterest

16+

- WhatsApp
- Telegram Messenger
- Tumblr

17+

- Line
- Sarahah
- Tellonym

18+ or 13 with parent's permission

- YouTube
- WeChat
- Kik
- Flickr
- Play Store
- Spotify (12 with parental permission)

There are also restrictions for online games and general website content

There are a few simple things you can do...and we'll walk you through it

Explore	**Talk**
Explore and understand the apps, games and sites your child uses and get to know your child's online world better.	Chat to your child about their online world, just as you'd ask about their day at school. Reassure them that you are there to help them
Agree	**Manage**
Set out the family rules to live well online. Discuss and agree ground rules and make sure you're a good role model. Set aside device free time for the family, too.	Make the technology work for you. Adapt privacy settings and use parental controls where necessary

Family agreement

A great way to start positive family conversations around safe and responsible internet use, and to agree clear expectations and boundaries.

Use the questions below to help guide your conversations, focusing on those most relevant for your family.

Turn over the page for a template where you can record your agreements and expectations in writing.

Things to consider

▶ Getting started
- What do we enjoy doing online?
- What apps, games and websites do we use the most?
- What devices, tech, toys or games do we have with internet access?
- Do we already have any rules about use of tech we want to include in our family agreement?

🕐 Managing time online
- How long do we spend on our devices?
- How does it feel when we use tech for too long?
- How do we know when our screen use is interfering with family life?
- What can we do to help avoid overusing tech?

✈ Sharing
- What is or isn't okay to share online?
- What should we check before posting images and videos online?
- How do we keep personal information belonging to ourselves and others safe?
- Do we need a family email address to use when signing up to new accounts?
- Do we know how to use privacy settings and strong passwords, and why these are important?
- How can we use features like livestreaming and disappearing content safely?

🔍 Online content
- What can we do if we see something online which seems unreliable or untrustworthy?
- When is it okay to download files, games or apps, or click on a link?
- Do we know what the age requirements, or ratings, on the games and apps we use mean?
- Do we need any restrictions on making in-game or in-app purchases?
- Which websites are okay for us to use?

💬 Communicating online
- Who can we talk/chat/play games with online? Do we only know them online, or offline too?
- How can we keep ourselves safe when communicating with people who we only know online?
- How can we be a good friend when we are online?

⚠ If things go wrong
- What can we do if we feel uncomfortable or upset by anything we see or hear online?
- What should we do if someone we only know online asks us for photos, to meet up, or to share personal information?
- Do we know where the report and block buttons are online?

✅ To finish…
- How could parental controls help our family?
- What will happen if one of us breaks the family agreement?
- When should we review our family agreement?

Once you've talked about your family's use of technology and the internet, think about what simple steps you can take going forward. We've given some examples for different ages below…

We agree to… (Under 11s)	Who is responsible for this?
I will use my tablet for ____ mins a day.	Hannah and Izzy
I will make sure the children's favourite games are bookmarked for them to get to easily.	Nan

We agree to… (Pre-teens)	Who is responsible for this?
I will tell mum and dad when I see something that worries me.	Tom, Ella and Yasmin
I will put parental controls in place but review it as the children grow up.	Mum

We agree to… (Teenagers)	Who is responsible for this?
I will make sure all my social networking sites are private.	Amar and Yusuf
I won't post photos of our children without their permission.	Dad

Family agreement

Use this template to put your agreement down in writing. Why not display it somewhere at home like on the fridge or a noticeboard?

Who is this agreement for?

We agree to...
E.g. Be kind and respectful online.

Who is responsible for this?
E.g. We will all make sure we only post kind comments.

What happens if someone doesn't follow the agreement?

How long will our agreement last for and when will we review it?

Signatures

Parent checklist and call to action

- **Explore**: Find out about the applications your child uses
- **Explore:** Research new applications and games your child is speaking about
- **Talk and Agree:** Fill in family agreement: https://www.childnet.com/ufiles/Family-Agreement.pdf
- **Manage:** Understand the internet access your child has at home: contact your home internet provider
- **Manage:** Manage your child's devices: https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/e-safety-checklist-getting-your-kids-tech-devices-set-up-safe/
- **Manage:** Link all of your child's accounts to your device: https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/smartphones-and-other-devices/
- **Manage:** Be with your child when they are on their devices, the same way you would be if you were out

https://www.internetmatters.org/

https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/

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

Questions from parents from the survey

Q: Questions about keeping children safe online, monitoring their online use and installing parental controls

A: Links shared in this presentation address this

Q: Questions about school use of Chromebooks

A: Please contact your child's teacher after next half term's curriculum evening meeting if you still have questions

Q: How can make the child recognize what content is safe?

A: The children - at this age - are not responsible for this. Groomers deliberately invent child-friendly games and content in order to engage children. As adults we need to research games and applications using sites like https://www.net-aware.org.uk/ to check age restrictions, content and added safety procedures. We know children may access material at other people's houses so make sure they know what games etc they should be playing, and know not to use online chats. Also make sure they are confident to share with you what they have used without worrying about your reaction and consequences.

Q: Are the kids monitored in class when they are playing online games?
A: Please see previous slide about how we keep the children safe in-class.

Q:Can we also have a parents and kids session on this topic together after this?

A: We speak to the children regularly, both in class and in assemblies. As parents, speak to the children about what they are learning about online safety at school, and share what you know with them too. Have open and honest (age-appropriate) conversations. If there are still concerns, talk to us.

Q:How do we address dangers of internet without scaring them or having them worry they will be punished for speaking up if something potentially unsafe occurs to them, or a friend, on a computer?

A: Please see the answers above about having open and honest age-appropriate conversations and ensure that children are confident to share what they are doing without worrying about your reaction and consequences.

Q:Why is online classes recorded? My child feels uncomfortable with this since he does not know what the recordings will be used for.

A:We record all sessions for safeguarding reasons, both for the child and the member of staff. We also use them for lesson observations of virtual lessons. Recordings are stored in our school's secure drive.

Q:How to stop pop up advertising that are not suitable for the kids on YouTube?

A: If the account settings are correct for your child's age, they would not receive inappropriate content. Links shared in this presentation address that.

Glossary: key internet safety issues

- **Cyberbullying** - Cyberbullying is one of the most far-reaching issues facing children today
- **Inappropriate content** - this can have a negative and serious impact on your child's wellbeing, what they and how they act
- **Online grooming** - As children become more relaxed about talking to strangers online, it's important to talk about the potential risks and how to stay safe.
- **Online reputation** - A child's online reputation can be affected by what they publish and post online.
- **Online pornography** - Online pornography and sexualised imagery are easily accessible on the internet
- **Sexting** - Sexual messaging and image sharing between children and their boyfriends or girlfriends or people they've met online can have unwanted consequences for children.
- **Privacy & Identity theft** - A child's identity can be stolen just like an adult's can, so it's important to ensure your child understands the importance of personal data privacy.
- **Self-harm** - Children can use the internet to educate themselves about self-harm and connect with pro-self-harm communities
- **Radicalisation** - Children can be introduced to ideas online that may be considered extreme and become radicalised

Social Networking
Risk of underage social networking accounts

- Many sites include an instant message function that allows private conversations between site members.
- Most social networking sites have an app version available, meaning your child will have access to the social network from their smartphone or tablet. Some app versions of social networks use the location of the phone.
- Information shared between friends can be easily copied and may spread.
- It isn't easy to take back information that has been posted – and can be impossible if it's already been shared.
- Not everyone your child meets online will be who they say they are. Chatrooms and forums can connect people who are complete strangers and can be unmoderated.
- Chatrooms and forums are some of the places online groomers go to connect with children. They can also be places where people use a lot of sexual language and engage in online flirting. This is sometimes done through video chat programs.
- If you child is opening an account on a social networking account e.g. Instagram and say they are 13+ when they are 8 years old, in 3 years time when they are 11 years old, they will be treated as an adult and open to adult content
- Some of the children in school have opened accounts as adults and are being exposed to adult content already. Others on the application will believe them to be an adult.