



## HIGH HESKET C of E SCHOOL (VC)

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Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Parents,

### INFORMATION RELATING TO ONLINE SAFETY

Over the past few months, the internet has been invaluable in keeping us connected to our friends and families through online platforms and messaging. Many of the children have been able to keep in touch with friends whilst they have been unable to attend school in person and it has, of course, been essential in school being able to provide remote learning materials. However, now that the children have fully returned to school and are engaging in person with their friends, it is worth reminding parents that there are age restrictions relating to different applications and that the children need support and supervision when using these. The age restrictions are in place, not just to ensure that the content is suitable, but also to ensure that the children have the social and emotional maturity to manage the communications safely and positively. It is not our role to police the children's use of social media and devices at home as we fully recognise that everyone's circumstances are different and that the current situation has increased the use of online resources amongst the younger generation. However, we would recommend that parents consider the suggestions included in the 'Internet Matters' parents guides which have been sent out alongside this letter. It is worth noting that the age recommendations for some of the most popular applications are as follows:

- What's app – 16 years
- Tik Tok – 13+ years
- Facebook – 13 years
- Snapchat – 13 years

It is also worth mentioning the school procedures relating to children bringing devices on to the school site. For the vast majority of children, they should not bring devices, including mobile phones, in to school. This includes Smart watches that can connect to the internet, take photographs or send messages (Fitbit style watches that work solely to track fitness are permitted so long as they do not also act as a Smart watch). If there is a specific reason for a child to bring a device in to school, such as because they are travelling to another household, the device should be handed to a member of staff on arrival where it will be safely stored until the end of the school day.

We do have an E-Safety section as part of our school website (located in the parents section) which includes a variety of links to useful websites and parent guides.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs A Harvey