



Diss Community and Church Primary Schools Federation

Diss Church of England Junior School and
Diss Infant School with Nursery and Children's Centre

24th November 2016

Dear Parents and Carers

Re: Computers, tablets, games consoles, Youtube and social media

The schools in our cluster have recently been discussing how we use technology to inform our children and keep them safe. In the last year Norfolk has seen a huge rise in the number of exclusions across the county, related to the behaviours exhibited by children. Whilst we still await advice and the conclusions of research, particularly related to 'gaming', it is clear that some of the attitudes and language that we see and hear in schools are coming directly from the content of computer games and social media.

Lots of children will already have or will be getting new technology and games for Christmas. There are lots of fun games and useful apps that our children can benefit from. However our safeguarding officers and school staff have serious concerns about some games and activities that children are engaging in.

Several children have reported playing or watching adult, age restricted, games. These are inappropriate for their age and children have described the levels of violence and unsuitable content that they have witnessed. **Games like Call of Duty, Grand Theft Auto and other similar age restricted games are unsuitable for children and they should not have access to them.** Nor should children in our school have Facebook accounts or interact on sites or media messaging sites, such as Whatsapp, that are not designed for their age. Children should only play on games or access sites that are age appropriate. Please see the reverse of this letter for further guidance on this.

It is a safeguarding concern if children are accessing inappropriate content and we are obliged to treat it as such.

Please do not be drawn into peer pressure purchases. If you are buying a new game, please play with it first if you are unsure of its content.

We know that as parents you expect us to keep your children safe, so we look forward to your support in this issue. Our schools work with children to try to help them understand how to keep themselves safe. If you would like advice about online or digital safety, please contact us. There is also some useful advice on our website: www.dissjuniorschool.co.uk

Also look out for our new Computing and Technology newsletter, 'The Hub', which contains lots of good ideas and advice for parents.

We hope that we can work together to ensure that our children can enjoy the benefits of new technology and protect them from danger.

Yours sincerely

Karen Sewell
Head Teacher

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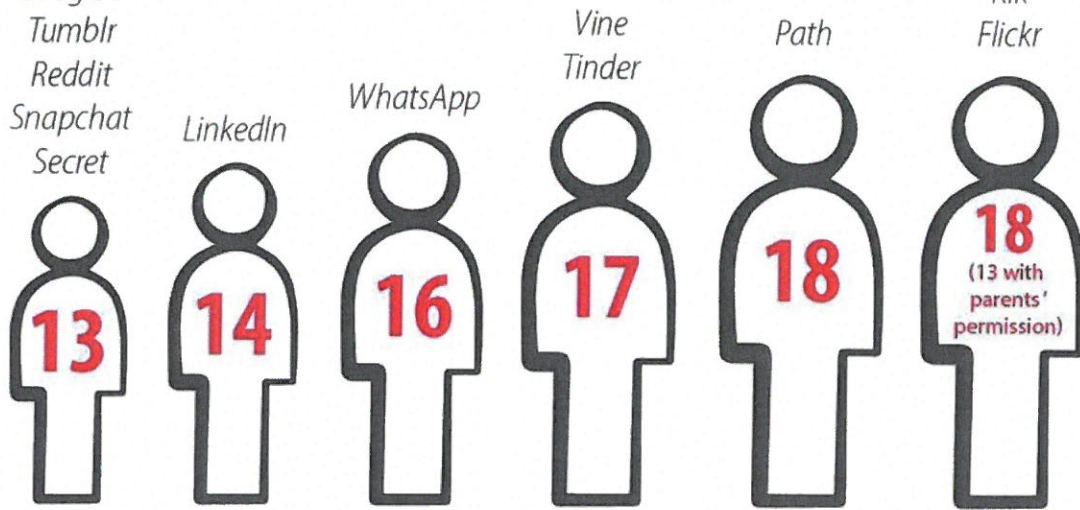
01379 642768
office@diss-inf.norfolk.sch.uk

Age Restrictions for Social Media Platforms

(Ages specified in terms as of 2014)

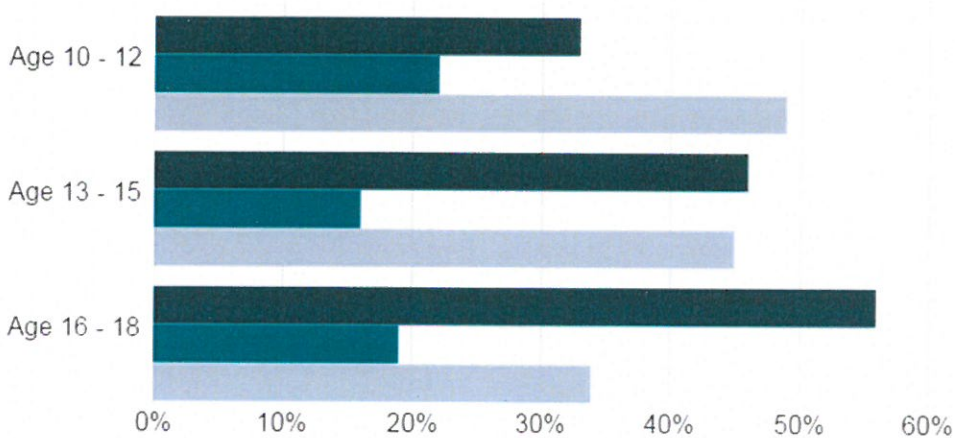
Twitter
Facebook
Instagram
Pinterest
Google+
Tumblr
Reddit
Snapchat
Secret

YouTube
Keek
Foursquare
WeChat
Kik
Flickr



Experience of bullying or trolling on social media, by age

■ Seen ■ Experienced ■ Not seen



BBC/ Comres - Base: 1,098 respondents with social media account