

6th January, 2026

Subject: Online Safety

Dear Parents and Carers,

In today's digital age, the internet plays a significant role in children's lives, offering valuable opportunities for learning, communication and entertainment. However, it also presents potential risks, particularly for younger children who may not yet fully understand the dangers they may encounter online.

Online safety is an integral part of our curriculum, but many incidents occur outside of school. We therefore greatly value your support in reinforcing these important messages at home. While decisions around devices and apps are a matter for individual families, access to age-inappropriate platforms can have an impact on children's learning, wellbeing and safety. We would like to take this opportunity to highlight the importance of online safety and share guidance on how you can best support your child.

As technology becomes increasingly accessible, banning its use is neither realistic nor effective. Instead, we share a collective responsibility to teach children how to stay safe online, in the same way that we support them to stay safe in the real world. The [NSPCC website](#) provides clear, up-to-date guidance for parents and carers, and relevant links are included below for your reference.

MOBILE PHONES

We are aware that some children within the school have mobile phones. To clarify, at Wildmoor Heath:

- Only Year 6 children are permitted to bring mobile phones to school, with written parental consent, and only when necessary to contact parents for their journey to and from school.
- Phones must be switched off on school premises and will be collected at the start of the day and returned at the end of the day.
- Children are reminded that they should not take photographs or videos of other children without their permission.
- Children with diabetes may have a mobile phone for medical reasons.

You may decide it is not appropriate for your child to have a mobile phone yet. The NSPCC provides a [helpful questionnaire](#) to support this decision. Some parents have decided to avoid giving their children a smartphone until the age of 14 and have signed the [Smartphone Free Childhood](#) pact.

CHAT APPS (WhatsApp, Snapchat, etc.)

We have been made aware of incidents at home involving chat groups, where pupils have reported exposure to unkind language and upsetting messages. As a reminder:

- **Users must be at least 13 years old** to register for these apps in the UK.
- Children may be added to group chats with unknown participants, without their consent, increasing the risk of seeing upsetting content.

If you allow your child to use chat apps, we strongly advise that you:

- Review and enable appropriate **privacy settings and parental controls**
- Monitor your child's activity and messages on a regular basis
- Check group chats frequently, as these can change quickly
- Support your child to leave groups or block users if content becomes upsetting or inappropriate
- Remind your child to communicate respectfully and kindly online, just as they would in person

While children may not always welcome this oversight, it is often in their best interest.

Mrs C Vincent, Headteacher

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SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS (TikTok, Instagram, Facebook, etc.)

We know that a number of children have TikTok accounts. To clarify:

- These platforms require users to be aged 13 or over.
- Posting content can expose children to negative reactions, comments or unwanted contact.
- Some children may access social media through adult accounts without close supervision.
- Most platforms offer dedicated safety hubs that provide tools, guidance and settings to help manage your child's online safety.

We strongly encourage parents and carers to review these resources and use them proactively.

ONLINE GAMES (Roblox, Minecraft, etc.)

- **Roblox:** Live chat and multiplayer features may expose children to inappropriate language or content. Parental permissions are required for **users under 13**, with some restrictions for **children under 9**.
- **Minecraft:** Multiplayer mode enables chatting with others, which carries risks of exposure to inappropriate language or content. **Microsoft account users must be over 13 years of age.**

We recommend enabling parental controls, restricting chat features, monitoring who your child interacts with, and discussing online experiences regularly.

MISINFORMATION AND DISINFORMATION (Fake News)

Bracknell Forest has provided a leaflet titled "*Understanding Misinformation and Disinformation – A Guide for Primary-Aged Children*" (attached), designed to help Years 5 and 6 recognise false or misleading information online. We encourage you to read this with your child and use it to start conversations about online content. The [Internet Matters Fake News and Misinformation Advice Hub](#) is another useful resource for families.

Supporting Your Child at Home

You can help by:

- **Talking openly** and regularly with your child about online safety and potential risks
- Setting clear rules and expectations, including **appropriate screen time limits**
- Monitoring online activity and making use of **parental controls and privacy settings**
- Teaching children how to **protect their personal information** and online privacy
- Encouraging **respectful and kind behaviour online** and supporting your child to report anything that makes them feel uncomfortable or concerned

Further guidance is available on our [school website](#).

Please contact the school if you have any questions or need additional support.

Yours sincerely,

Clare Vincent

Headteacher

Useful Links:

- NSPCC Online Safety: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>
- Internet Matters Fake News and Misinformation Hub: <https://www.internetmatters.org/issues/fake-news-and-misinformation-advice-hub/>

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