

14th January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

**Re: Under 13s and Social Media**

<https://parentzone.org.uk/article/under-13s-and-social-media>

At Heron Hall Academy, we are committed to promoting the safe and responsible use of the internet. This topic is regularly discussed in tutor time, assemblies and lessons. It is also important that parents have this conversation with students at home. **Snapchat** is one example, of the many types of social media that is now in use and it is important to know how it should be used.

Most of these social network, picture and video sharing applications such as snapchat **have an age restriction of 13** and therefore none of our pupils should be using these apps if they are below this age.

We are aware, however, that some children are using some of the above social media apps and therefore must have given a false age in order to create an account.

As with any social media account, it is vitally important that they are set up carefully and with the necessary security settings. Children are often creating 'group chats' and others are joining these. This means that all information is shared with anyone who is in the group so privacy is lost and in some cases strangers have been added to the group.

We understand that it is increasingly difficult to keep up with the ways that our children are using new and ever changing technologies. Our children are immersed in a society that has become dependent on powerful computers, including smart phones, iPads, interactive online games and virtual communities. Websites such as Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, Whats App, Viber, musical.ly and OoVoo. These sites are created with their audience in mind **who is over 13**.



More information and guidance about e-safety can be found at the link above and on the school website in the parent>E-safety section; this section has links to online advice and guidance pages as does the link at the top of the page.

Please use the SMART diagram below to remind children about safe use of the internet.

Thank you for your support with this matter.

Yours sincerely,



Mr A Barzey  
Head Teacher  
Heron Hall Academy

