



MOST SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES ARE INTENDED FOR PEOPLE OVER THE AGE OF 13 AND SHOULD NOT BE ACCESSED BY PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN

Social networking can be a lot of fun, but can carry risks, especially for children and young people. Many social networking sites have age restrictions (**usually 13+ years**) and it is important for parents to understand the site's **Terms and Conditions of Use**. There is a valid and legal reason for online rules. Children should not be permitted to access prohibited accounts. Please talk about the rules and why they are important. Issues that occur on-line often follow students into the classroom and onto the playground, which require teacher intervention and therefore interferes with teaching/learning time.

Social networking sites require a large amount of time invested in them, not only to set up, but also to continually check to see that the security/ privacy settings are at their highest level. This is particularly important when the account holder is a child. At school, children are required to access the Internet via their Student Portal and we recommend that they do the same at home as this adds another layer of cyber safety to your already existing safety guards.

Many social networking sites work on '**real name**' culture, which means that being truthful in the setting up of an account makes the account safer. Use the security settings to protect your privacy.

The following link is a very useful place to find out about the types of social networking your children will want to be involved in. <https://www.esafety.gov.au/esafety-information/games-apps-and-social-networking>. Once on this site, find the social media platform you want to investigate and click on it. In a blue band, under the title, it will give you the age recommendation. **You will notice that TikTok has a minimum age of 13+**. There is also a place for you to report online abuse or block someone, along with lots of other very useful information.

After accessing the above link, you will notice that most social networking sites are intended for people over the age of 13 and should not be accessed by primary school children.

May I remind you again, how important it is for your children NOT to have access to these sites. Please always keep your children safe when they are using social media and check that it is appropriate to their age.

Thank you for your support. It is important that we work together to keep our children e-safe.

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RESPECTFUL

RESPONSIBLE

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