



WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL
BARTONS PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Dear Parents/Carers,

As you will be aware, E-safety is part of the National Curriculum and across the school, we teach the children about safe practice whilst on-line and whilst using electronic devices. Managing E-safety in schools also falls under the remit of safeguarding and we have a responsibility to support young people and families about the risks and benefits of accessing the World Wide Web. We also have a responsibility to make parents/carers aware of activities that some of the children might be involved in.

It has come to our attention, from a number of very concerned parents, that some of our children are accessing and using apps like TikTok and YouTube which are on-line platforms where you can post and upload videos and photographs. Some children have been posting videos of themselves and some have made unkind posts about other children. We want to advise you that the age recommendation for TikTok is 13 years old. It is therefore not appropriate for primary aged children.

We realise that most parents do monitor what their children have downloaded on their mobile phones or tablets and that they monitor their on-line use but we are sure that some may not be aware of what their children may be looking at and posting. Today we have seen some video posts from some of our children; some in lower school. These were extremely worrying. In some of the videos, their school uniform could be clearly seen thus identifying the school that they go to. This makes children very vulnerable.

This, of course, is a parental decision of whether your child has access to these apps/platforms or not and we are not trying to dictate to you what your child does. However, these social media apps are having an impact on discussions in school. We are sure that parents would want us to alert them to this kind of thing because we are concerned that the children are not fully aware of the dangers of posting videos of themselves and looking at inappropriate material; possibly interacting with unknown followers and passing on personal information. There are safeguarding risks associated with sharing sensitive information i.e. what their name is, where they live and what school they go to etc.

We would suggest that you talk to your child about these dangers and check their phone or tablet regularly to see what they are looking at or interacting with. We would also suggest checking privacy settings, if you allow them to use these sites, so that posts and videos are not for public viewing.

If you have any questions then please don't hesitate to contact your child's class teacher.

Yours sincerely on behalf of the teaching staff,

Kate Powell

