DUCKMANTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Duckmanton Primary School
West Crescent, Duckmanton,
Chesterfield, Derbyshire, S44 5HD
01246 825 650
enquiries@duckmanton.derbyshire.sch.uk
www.duckmantonprimary.co.uk

Headteacher: Emma Levers

Dear Parents and Carers, 17.11.2026

RE: Inappropriate use of social media

We have recently been made aware of inappropriate comments being made by a small group of Y5 children on social media. While we will always work with families to support safe online behaviour, this letter aims to provide clear guidance on social media age restrictions, the law, and how you can help your child stay safe online.

Across the UK, the minimum age for most major social media services is 13:

- Facebook – minimum age 13
- Instagram – minimum age 13
- WhatsApp – minimum age 13 in the UK since 2024
- Snapchat – minimum age 13

These age limits are intended to protect children from content, communication features, and data-processing environments that are designed for older users.

We strongly encourage transparency and open conversation at home about what our children are viewing online and advise that parents and families should:

- **Have open and regular conversations**. Talk about what your child is doing online and who they are communicating with. Encourage them to speak up if they see something that worries or confuses them.
- **Set clear expectations and boundaries**. Review which apps your child is using and adjust privacy settings together. Keep devices in shared family areas wherever possible. Agree rules on screen time, communication, and device use.
- **Model healthy digital behaviour**. Show children positive, respectful online communication. Discuss how to recognise inappropriate or unsafe content.
- **Use parental controls and safety tools**. Device-level and app-level parental controls can help filter content and manage usage.
- **Stay informed**. Organisations such as NSPCC, Childnet, and Internet Matters offer up-to-date guidance.

If you would like practical help with safety settings, online behaviour, or conversations at home, the following organisations provide free resources for families:

- NSPCC – Online Safety
- Childnet
- Internet Matters

Whilst issues that arise online can have an impact on children's wellbeing and relationships in school, it is important to note that incidents occurring on social media outside school hours are often difficult for schools to investigate and manage fully. Parents and carers play a crucial role in monitoring their child's online activity and addressing concerns that arise at home. By working together, we can help ensure that all children remain safe, respectful and responsible both online and offline.

Thank you for your continued partnership in supporting our pupils' safety and wellbeing.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Emma Levers

Headteacher