



# Mullion C P School

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## Social media information for parents

As part of our E safety programme, I include the following guidance on social media use and the age restrictions that apply.

The sites have restrictions for good reasons. Every page that your child visits, on purpose or by accident, informs the site to send more and more of the same content through their algorithms.

### Online risks

Children may be exposed to upsetting or inappropriate content online, particularly if the platform you're using doesn't have robust privacy and security settings or if you're not checking posts. This content might be sexually explicit or it might be harmful in other ways, such as [radicalisation](#), [bullying](#), or content that's upsetting.

Children may be at risk of being [groomed](#) if they have an online profile that means they can be contacted privately.

Children's posts or profile information may expose personal information and put them at risk. For example, they may talk about their home life, feelings, or thoughts they've been having. There may be information that makes them identifiable such as locations of events they are taking part in or visual clues in photographs. Perpetrators may use this information to groom, abuse or exploit children.

Perpetrators of abuse may create fake profiles to try to contact children and young people through the platform you're using, for example an adult posing as a child. They may also create anonymous accounts and engage in cyberbullying or trolling. People known to a child can also perpetrate abuse.

On many platforms, children can be contacted anywhere and at any time through private messaging or notification alerts. This means it's harder for them to escape from abusive messages or upsetting content that they are tagged in.

Below you will see the minimum age for all the popular social media sites. It is part of advertising and privacy laws that underage children do not access these sites. If a child lies about their age (which they have to do to get an account) then marketing will target them at the age they have said they are. This age goes up each year so that if an 8 year old tells the site they are thirteen by the time they are 11 they are targeted with content for 16 year olds and so on. Within two years, a child who uses What's App will be targeted with content suitable for an 18 year old adult. This is obviously detrimental to a child's mental health and their right to be a child.

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13 year olds and upwards



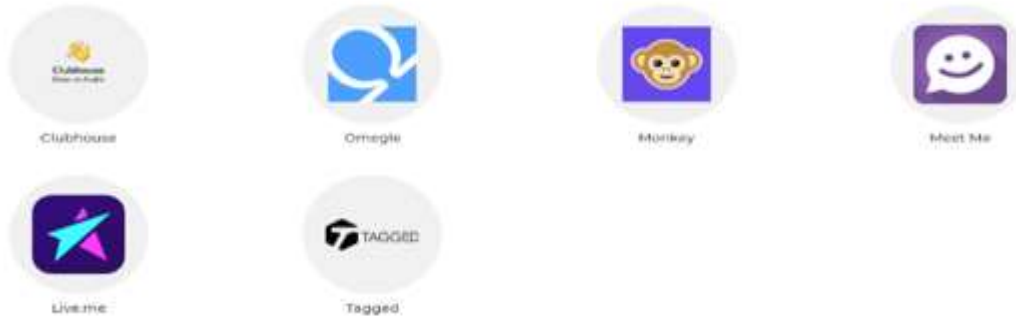
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16 year olds and upwards



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Not suitable for under 18 year olds



Pupils should not have accounts with these sites. We have had many incidents in school following pupils using these sites. There have been situations where the school have contacted social services to provide support for children and families as well as police involvement.

There are many useful sites with further guidance and advice to help parents keep their children safe from harm.

- <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/safeguarding-child-protection/social-media-and-online-safety>
- <https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/what-age-can-my-child-start-social-networking/>
- <https://www.commonsensemedia.org/>

You can also find parent guides to many platforms on our school website. These will be updated when new guidance is available. Simply follow the link below: [https://www.mullion-ji.cornwall.sch.uk/website/online\\_safety/89265](https://www.mullion-ji.cornwall.sch.uk/website/online_safety/89265)