



Love . Hope . Courage

Nursling Street  
Nursling  
Southampton  
SO16 0XH  
Email: [admin@nursling.hants.sch.uk](mailto:admin@nursling.hants.sch.uk)  
Website: [www.nurslingprimary.co.uk](http://www.nurslingprimary.co.uk)  
Telephone: 02380732289  
Headteacher: Mrs Joanne Jearrad BEd Hons.

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

At Nursling C of E Primary School we are committed to promoting the safe and responsible use of the internet. We are writing to share a growing concern regarding the use of social media and online platforms by some children in Year 6.

We have received several reports from parents about the misuse of messaging and social media apps, including WhatsApp and gaming platforms. In some cases, children have been involved in group chats and online interactions that include offensive or unkind language directed at other pupils. These incidents are occurring outside of school hours, but they are impacting relationships and wellbeing within the class.

It's important to be aware of the official age limits for popular apps, which are set out in the platform terms of service and reinforced by UK online safety guidance. These age limits help ensure children have the maturity and understanding to use these services safely:

- WhatsApp – Minimum age 13+ (previously 16+ under older terms)
- Instagram – Minimum age 13+
- Snapchat – Minimum age 13+
- TikTok – Minimum age 13+
- Facebook – Minimum age 13+
- YouTube – Minimum age 13+ for an account; younger children can access YouTube Kids with supervision
- Discord/X (formerly Twitter) – Minimum age 13+

Please note that these minimum ages are set by the platforms themselves — they do not automatically prevent younger users signing up but they do form part of the legal and safety framework that platforms should enforce under UK online safety law.

We appreciate that many families choose to allow their children access to certain apps, even if they are below the suggested age but it remains the responsibility of the parent or carer to monitor and supervise how these apps are used. We strongly encourage you to:

- Check privacy and safety settings on your child’s devices and accounts
- Talk with your child regularly about what they are using online, who they are interacting with, and how it makes them feel
- Monitor chat groups and conversations, particularly on messaging services and gaming platforms where behaviour may go unseen

Children’s online interactions play a big role in their social lives but without guidance and supervision they can also be a source of distress and risk. We need to work together — school and home — to ensure our children learn how to use technology safely and considerately.

For more information and practical advice, please visit:

 <https://www.internetmatters.org/>

 <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Kind regards,



Mrs Skeels  
Assistant Headteacher and Year 6 Teacher

*The Lord says “I will guide you along the best pathway of your life.  
I will advise you and watch over you.”  
Psalm 32:8 NLT*