

As parents and teachers, we share the responsibility of ensuring that today's children make safe, sensible use of the opportunities provided by advances in technology and communication. It is important that children, parents and school staff work together to make this happen.

Our aim is for Bunscoil learners to use ICT to enhance and augment their daily learning and to explore learning possibilities offered by ICT that would otherwise be unavailable to them. We want to be able to enjoy the advantages of new technologies and improved communication while keeping children safe.

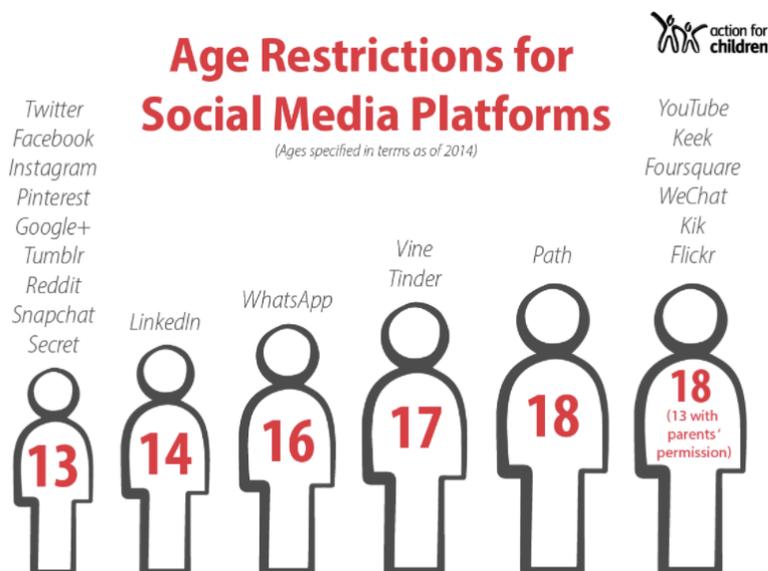
### Personal electronic devices eg ipod, mobile phone, DS

The use of personal electronic devices is **not currently allowed** in school. The children do not need them for their work and we would expect messages to/from home to be conveyed using the school phone or email.

Many children bring personal electronic devices to school to use on their journeys to and from school. Children travelling unaccompanied to and from school are in a somewhat vulnerable situation. At a recent cyber security meeting we were told of an incident where a child had taken an inappropriate photograph and shared it via blue tooth with all the blue tooth devices on the bus. Children may also be sharing videos and games with friends that are not age appropriate. We don't have answers for this, but please take time to talk to your children and check what they have access to on their devices, and what they have seen on their friends' devices.

### Social media

Concerns about social media were central to the aforementioned cyber security meeting. We do not use social media sites in school but we are aware that many of our children do use them, contrary to age guidelines. Points highlighted at the meeting included the access you/your child is giving to other users about their private life, habits, location and the fact that when you post something on a site, you no longer have control over that image or information.



### In School

Before using the internet at school, children must sign a class contract which contains the following promises;

*They will not communicate with unknown people via the internet without permission from their teacher (for example if the class were finding out about life in another country and had organised contact with a class in that country)*

*They will not waste time when they are supposed to be looking for information*

*When they send messages to other pupils or staff, the messages will be polite and friendly*

*They won't search for unsuitable pictures*

*They won't make arrangements to meet anybody*

*If they see anything they are worried about they will immediately tell a member of staff*

*They understand that their browsing history can be accessed by staff*

Breaking the above contract has consequences, such as restrictions on use of school computers. Parents will be informed of any serious incidents.

### Outside School

Please stay aware of what your children are accessing and posting through their own or others' personal electronic devices. Technology is rapidly changing the world, and as caregivers we have a lot of work to do to keep up.

Try the links below for guidance:

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/topics/stay-safe>

<https://ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/>

