

Dear Woodpecker Hall Parents,

The internet is forever growing and changing, it is paramount that we educate our children to be safe and respectful when online.

Keeping pupils safe online is very much a partnership between us in school and yourselves at home. Please may we remind you of the following age ratings for some popular online platforms: -

Age restrictions



YouTube is not intended for children under the **age of 13** because of the risks of inappropriate content that they could be exposed to. There is a child friendly version of YouTube that can be accessed at <https://kids.youtube.com> or downloaded as an app. Please be aware that, whilst this content is designed for children, it may still be possible to access the main YouTube channel.



Discord- Discord's Terms of Service requires people to be over a minimum age to access their app or website. The minimum age to access Discord is **13**, unless local legislation mandates an older age.



Roblox- [Roblox](https://www.roblox.com) has an ESRB rating of *E10+ for Everyone 10 and up for Fantasy Violence*, which means that typical gameplay should be suitable for most kids. However, the rating also includes an *Users Interact* notice and an *In-Game Purchases* notice. These let parents know that players can communicate with each other, create, and share games with each other, and make additional purchases within the game.



TikTok- The minimum age for a TikTok user is **13 years old**. While this is great news for younger users, it's important to note that TikTok doesn't use any age verification tools when new users sign up.



Whatsapp: The minimum age of use for WhatsApp is **16 years** old. It had previously dropped to 13 years old but in April 2018 returned to 16, as a response to data-protection legislation



Snap chat- The minimum age for users is 13, in compliance with the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act. Snapchat does not ask users to specify their age so there are probably many younger children using the app. The service will delete underage accounts if they're notified and can verify the users are under 13.



Instagram- The minimum age for users 13, in compliance with the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act. Instagram does not ask users to specify their age, and there are many younger children who use the service, often with their parents' permission. Whether Instagram is "safe" depends more on how it's used than on the age of the user, but Instagram will delete underage accounts if they're notified and can verify the users are under 13.

We understand that the online world can be a challenging place and would ask that if you have any concerns with content, contact, conduct or commerce your child is exposed to, you seek support in resolving this.

Reporting concerns and accessing information and support online:

<https://www.woodpeckerhallacademy.org.uk/E-safety>

CEOP: Child Exploitation and online protection command (CEOP) are part of the UK National Crime Agency and are tasked with investigating child sex offenders, including those involved in the production or distribution and viewing of child abuse materials, to the UK Courts.

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

Think U know- Resources and support for children and young people of all ages.

[Thinkuknow - home](#)

Child Line- National organisation such as 'Childline' are also available to support young people who have suffered a negative experience online.

[Childline | Childline](#)

Kids Online World- If you want more information about games/apps young people are currently using.

[KIDSONLINEWORLD.COM - Home](#)

NSPCC ONLINE safety-Understanding online safety is tricky for all ages. Have advice to help you learn about staying safe online as a family.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

Please do not hesitate to contact a member of our SLT or our safeguarding team for further information.