

Talbot Primary School Safeguarding newsletter February 2024

I am writing to you once again regarding mobile phones and social media. I have attached guidance regarding age restrictions for social media platforms.

To be clear, no primary school aged child should be on any of these sites.

Many of our children are.

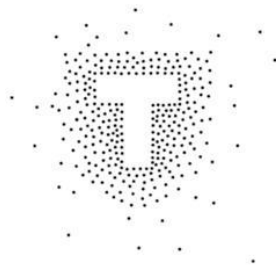
Very few have privacy settings set up. This means that everything they post can be viewed by anyone. This puts them at risk, particularly if they post pictures of themselves in uniform or near easily identifiable landmarks or road signs.

I believe that misuse of smartphones and social media sites by our children are damaging their wellbeing, exposing them to adult or damaging content and opening them up to risks which are unnecessary and completely avoidable.

I have copied below a link from the NSPCC with guidance for parents on how to try and keep children safe online. The children are taught how to keep safe and what to do if they feel at risk, but we know that many of them do not follow this guidance. This is one of the reasons they are not meant to be on these sites, they are not emotionally ready to make the choices that will keep them safe.

I have stated before that whenever I deal with issues of this nature, the parents generally tell me that everyone is on them and they don't want their children to miss out.

I can only repeat my response, which is that they should be missing out because the things that are happening, whether it is on unkind WhatsApp groups, inappropriate content on TikTok or more serious incidents that put children at risk of harm or exploitation, they are all harmful.



Talbot Primary School

Talbot Drive

Wallisdown

Poole

BH12 5ED

01202 513981

school@talbot.poole.sch.uk

www.talbot.poole.sch.uk

Please consider whether your child needs a smartphone at this age. Please sit with your child and go through their content together. Please review privacy settings with them. Please consider limiting internet access to devices and/or areas of your home where you are around and can help them keep safe.

Many thanks

[What is social media? | NSPCC](#)