ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
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Christ is the centre of our school community where we live, love and learn together

SOCIAL MEDIA ADVICE

We are aware that may of our pupils have a Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, WhatsApp, Vine, Pinterest and Tumblr accounts. We believe it necessary to issue advice on this, as there is a rising number of incidents occurring which are impacting on staff, parents and pupils.

Please note that staff have been advised that they are to not to accept friend requests from parents or pupils.

How old must my child be to have an account?

Facebook's terms and conditions clearly sate that you have to be **13** to have an account. This is the same for Instagram, Pinterest, Tumblr and Snapchat. However, for WhatsApp and Vine, their terms and conditions state the account holder must be **16** and **17**. If you are younger than this, you can only join by **falsifying** your date of birth, which is a **direct breach of the terms and conditions**. This applies to all children currently at St Thomas More.

My child does have one or more of these accounts which I know about….

Any family's use of their own computer is essentially a private matter. **However**, if a child's use of one of these Social Media accounts impacts negatively on any other pupil or member of staff, then **we will take very serious and immediate action**.

This could involve the police and Birmingham City's legal department which may lead to civil or criminal action against you or your child. **In such cases, we will work with the Social Media sites to close down the accounts of any child under the age of 13.**

If you have allowed your child to join one of the social media sites in breach of their terms and conditions, this means YOU are taking full responsibility for their account and everything they are doing with it.

We advise that:

- You look regularly at your child's account including the friends they are making and what they are writing.
- You add the click CEOP page to your child's profile. This is the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre.
- If you are on one of these sites, be friends with your child-whether they like or not.
- You check that they do not have a second, alternative profile which you don't know about.
- Your computer is in a public place in the house.

I don't know if my child has one of these accounts…

This is potentially very risky!

This means your child may have joined without your knowledge at a friend's house or on your computer or on their mobile device. **They cannot join at school.**
This means you don't know who your child is talking to and who they may be sharing information with. If you are unsure about the use of Social Sites, please visit www.thinkuknow.co.uk

Please contact us should you have any concerns or need any more information