

Executive Principal:
Mrs H Phillips, BA(Hons), PGCE, M.Ed

Vice Principal:
Mrs M Kee, BSc(Hons), PGCE

Email: office.etonpark@deferrers.com



Eton Park Junior:
A de Ferrers Trust Academy
Masefield Crescent
Burton upon Trent
Staffordshire
DE14 2SG
☎01283 247910
Fax: 01283 247907

IMPORTANT ONLINE SAFETY INFORMATION **Safeguarding Children**

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are finding that an increasing number of children are accessing chat apps, video chat apps, instant mobile messaging apps, live streaming services, video sharing, virtual chat rooms and social networking websites at home. Most of these are free to download and are free to access. The list below provides parents with an overview of some of apps, sites and services we are aware of, along with the age restrictions:

- WhatsApp - minimum age of use is 16 years old.
- ooVoo's - Terms of Service say it is for over 13s only.
- Omegle - has a 13+ age restriction and asks users under 18 to only access the site with parental permission and guidance.
- Instagram - Terms of Use state that all users must be at least 13 years old.
- Kik - the minimum age to register for a Kik account is 13 years old.
- YouNow - site rules state that the site is intended for individuals aged 13+.
- YouTube - you can register for a YouTube account from the age of 13 in the UK.
- Facebook - requires everyone to be at least **13 years old**. Creating an account with false info is a violation of Facebook terms.

As you can see from the Terms and Conditions of these apps and online services, the companies that produce them think it is inappropriate for primary aged children to be accessing them.

We would like to remind all parents to be extremely vigilant regarding children's phone, tablet and online usage. Please ensure that your child is fully supervised when accessing any kind of media devices and know what your child is doing online or on any media device.

One example of an app which could be potentially very dangerous for children to use is ooVoo. The ooVoo app is an instant message, voice and video chat link. It allows the user to accept anonymous contacts. Claims have been made that this app has been used inappropriately by some adults to deliberately target children.

Executive Principal:
Mrs H Phillips, BA(Hons), PGCE, M.Ed

Vice Principal:
Mrs M Kee, BSc(Hons), PGCE

Email: office.etonpark@deferrers.com



Eton Park Junior:
A de Ferrers Trust Academy
Masefield Crescent
Burton upon Trent
Staffordshire
DE14 2SG
☎01283 247910
Fax: 01283 247907

ooVoo users are required to be 13 years old but does not prevent children younger than this accessing the site—this is deemed the responsibility of parents.

Another game which has gained recent popularity is RoBlox. It is similar to Mine Craft and allows users to build characters and worlds. However, there are also on-screen and private chat room facility available as well as purchasing options. Children could be 'friends' with people online that they have never met and do not know. This could cause problems if people playing the game are lying about their age. The recommendations are that children should be 12 to play this game.

Primary school aged children are more likely to post personal information than older children, and they don't fully understand the possible severity and consequences of posting inappropriate comments, photographs or videos. Although online safety is covered within our computing curriculum, parents should also maintain open communication with their children in order to help them stay safe online.

We would advise parents to ensure they are fully aware of the different apps, media, websites and services in order to safeguard your child at home. More information can be found at www.getsafeonline.org and www.thinkuknow.co.uk. If parents require any support with the issues raised in this letter, please request to speak to Mrs Fotheringham.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs M Kee
Vice Principal