








Tuesday 21st April 2026

Dear Year 4, 5 and 6 Families,

Re: Inappropriate Social Media Use

I am writing to you today with a matter of significant concern regarding the safeguarding of our children in Years 4, 5 and 6. While Thomas Fairchild Community School maintains a strict policy where the school internet does not allow access to any social media accounts, we are increasingly dealing with the fallout of inappropriate online behaviour occurring outside of school hours. These incidents are causing profound distress to our pupils, which directly impacts their ability to learn and thrive. As a school, we cannot ignore the correlation between unsupervised home access to social media and the disruption of our educational environment.

The latest Ofcom: Media Use and Attitudes Report (2025) confirms that online engagement among 9-11-year-olds has reached a critical point. Nationally, 40% of children under the age of 13 now have an active social media profile despite legal age restrictions. The most prevalent platforms for this age group in 2025 include:

Social Media App	Age Restriction
	A significant driver of late-night 'scrolling' and disappearing messages that facilitate bullying. 13+ minimum age
	The platform has a minimum age restriction of 13+ (although it does not verify users' age upon sign-up)
	Cited for its high engagement and risks regarding inappropriate user-generated content. 13+ minimum age
	Frequently used for group chats where children are exposed to graphic language, swearing, and adult themes. 13+ minimum age
	Scammers often target children for their Robux (in-game currency) or use phishing to steal personal information. (Users can set up age-appropriate profiles but this relies on parental controls)

We have been running regular workshops with children in school, to provide information about the dangers online. However, to prevent further incidents and ensure the safety of our children, the school encourages the following actions to be taken at home:

1. **Conduct a Device Audit:** Physically check your child's phone, tablet, or games console for social media apps.
2. **Enforce Age Restrictions:** Delete accounts on Snapchat, Instagram, TikTok, and any other platforms for which your child is under the legal age.
3. **Monitor Communication:** Review WhatsApp groups and private messages for signs of inappropriate language or bullying.
4. **Establish 'Tech-Free' Zones:** Ensure all devices are removed from bedrooms at night to prevent late-night scrolling and distress.

This QR code links to the **UK Safer Internet Centre**, where you will find support and guidance for how to set up a secure digital environment in your home.

As a school, we are committed to providing a safe learning environment for all of our children and know that we can achieve this best when we have your active cooperation at home. If you have any concerns or require further support in managing your child's digital use, please do not hesitate to contact us.



Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "MTrahair".

Matt Trahair
Headteacher