Maidstone Grammar School
for Girls
Non sibi sed omnibus

MGGS Safeguarding Bulletin
Online Safety Edition!
Term 3&4 - 2023-2024

This bulletin is dedicated to keeping our school community safe when online.

At what age can my child start using social networks?

Internet Matters have produced this fantastic resource highlighting the minimum age limits for a variety of social media platforms as well as outlining the risks of being underage on social media. You can find out more here:

https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/what-age-can-my-child-start-social-networking

Setting up Parental Controls on your Child's Mobile

If you do not have the same mobile phone as your child, and therefore are unable to use Google Family link or Apple Family Sharing, then you can set restrictions on your child's device instead.

Apple devices:
To set up restrictions on your child's device directly (rather than using an app) follow the instructions on the link: https://support.apple.com/en-us/HT201304
The instructions will show you how to get to the settings on your child's phone and then how to set restrictions such as restrict content, schedule downtime, set time limits for apps. You will need to set a passcode 'use a screen time passcode' to ensure changes cannot be made after you have set them.

Android devices:
As with the above link, this link shows you how to set up parental controls on the device itself by creating a PIN:

https://support.google.com/googleplay/answer/1075738?hl=en-GB#zippy=%2Cfor-family-members-who-manage-their-own-accounts

Snapchat - new controls

What is Snapchat? Snapchat is a social media app used for messaging and sharing photos and videos. You must be 13+ to sign up. Users can send messages (snaps) to others that are only seen for a set time e.g., 10 seconds and users can also upload snaps to stories, which disappear after 24 hours. You can find out more about Snapchat here: https://parents.snapchat.com/en-GB

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SnapChat Family Center: new features

Snapchat are expanding the features available to you in their Family Center, allowing parents to view:
• story settings: you will be able to see who your child is sharing their story with e.g. all their friends or a smaller group.
• contact settings: see who your child can be contacted by (by people they have added as a friend or their phone contacts).
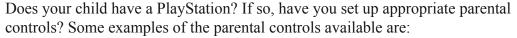• if your child is sharing their location with friends on the Snap Map.
In addition, you will be able to restrict the use of Snapchat's 'My AI.' You can find out more here:
https://values.snap.com/en-GB/news/expanding-our-in-app-parental-tools-2024

More information

The NSPCC provide further information about Snapchat, the risks involved with using Snapchat and tips to help keep your child safe if they are using Snapchat.
https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-safety-blog/is-snapchat-safe-for-my-child/

Playstation

Does your child have a PlayStation? If so, have you set up appropriate parental controls? Some examples of the parental controls available are:
• Set age restrictions,
• Set daily limits,
• Control chat and messaging,
• Set spend limits.

How can I block/report other players?

If your child is playing with other players, then please ensure they know how to report/block other players and to tell a trusted adult if they do come across anything upsetting or that they are unsure of. This link details how to do this based on the device they have:
https://www.playstation.com/en-gb/support/account/block-players-psn/

What games are suitable for my child?

PlayStation have included a list of games along with their age rating to help you find a game that may be appropriate for your child to play.
https://www.playstation.com/en-gb/editorial/great-ps4-games-for-kids-and-families/

Whilst age ratings do allow you to see if a game may be appropriate, it is also important to review the game yourself and see if it includes additional features such as chat. This will allow you to make an informed decision as to whether it is suitable and if you need to apply further parental controls.

Further information

You can find out more about the controls available here:
https://www.playstation.com/en-gb/parental-controls/

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YouTube Shorts

You should be over 13 to post videos on YouTube. YouTube Shorts are short videos which are similar in format to videos you find on TikTok or Instagram Reels. 'Shorts' are available to watch on the YouTube homepage or on the Shorts tab in the app. As they are quick to watch, they can be addictive and lead to excessive screen time. If your child is watching these videos, ensure they know that there is a report button. The INEQUE Safeguarding Group discuss this feature in more detail here: https://ineqe.com/2021/07/01/youtube-shorts-need-to-know/

EE Learn

EE Learn includes an array of information and guidance on how to keep your child safe online, for example tips on how to help your child when they are online. Find out more here: https://ee.co.uk/do-more-with-ee/learn

Safeguarding Support and Links

External support	In school support
Young Minds We provide young people with tools to look after their mental health. We empower adults to be the best support they can be to the young people in their lives. And we give young people the space to get their voices heard.	Speak to your tutor or Head of Study or a trusted member of staff.
Childline Get help and advice about a wide range of issues, call them on 0800 1111, talk to a counsellor online, send **Childline** an email or post on the message boards.	Speak to the Student Support Team
https://www.kooth.com/ At Kooth, our sole purpose is to create easy to access online mental health services that work alongside a young person to provide compassionate and effective support.	Speak to a member of the safeguarding team or refer online if you are not able to do so in school.
Mind the mental health charity. We're here to make sure no one has to face mental health problems alone.	Referral to in school counselling
https://moodspark.org.uk **Mood spark** is a place where young people can learn how to look after their emotional and mental health and find ways to help bounce back when life gets tough.	Referral to in school mentoring with Kings Reach
Papyrus A UK charity dedicated to the prevention of suicide and the promotion of positive mental health and emotional wellbeing in young people.	RISE days and Personal Development curriculum

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Young Minds Parents Helpline You can seek support aimed directly at parents by contacting the Young Minds Parents Helpline on 0808 802 5544, Monday - Friday 9:30am - 4:00pm. Website:https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/parents-helpline-and-webchat/	Attendance to a variety of enrichment and wellbeing clubs
Kent Youth Health Kent Youth Health has lots of useful information and resources on feelings, sex, health and relationships for teenagers in Kent. Find out what's normal for teenagers, how to cope with any bumps on the road and where to go to get help if you need it. Website:Kent Youth Health	

If you are in crisis or in immediate risk please contact 999 and ask for an emergency service.

Report a Safeguarding Concern

If you have a safeguarding concern and you have not been able to speak to a member of staff whilst at school, please report your concern online using our **REPORT A CONCERN** button located on the school website and a member of the safeguarding team will contact you. Please click the link below
https://www.mggs.org/key-information/contact-us/
Take a moment to refresh your knowledge on how MGGS keeps you safe.
https://www.mggs.org/key-information/how-mggs-keeps-you-safe/

Safeguarding Team at MGGS

Mr N Walker	Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)
Miss D Stanley	Headteacher
Mrs J Cox	Deputy DSL
Miss L Morris	Deputy DSL
Mrs L Shimmin	Deputy DSL
Mrs N Lawrence	Deputy DSL
Mr B White	Deputy DSL
Mr C Green	Deputy DSL

Main Contact Points
- *General Enquiries -* central@mggs.org
- *Attendance Notifications -* attendance@mggs.org
- *Safeguarding Concerns -* safeguarding@mggs.org
- *Website -* https://www.mggs.org/

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