

# Online safety @ MFSA

**Anti-Bullying Week (10<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> November)** is an important opportunity for schools to promote kindness, respect, and safe behaviour—both in person and online. As more children use digital devices, **cyberbullying** has become a growing concern, with hurtful messages, exclusion, or rumours able to spread quickly. The week encouraged open conversations about how to recognise cyberbullying, the importance of speaking up, and how to support those affected. It also reminds children to think carefully about their online actions, understand the impact of their words, and use technology responsibly.



Many social media and video apps, like **TikTok**, **YouTube**, and **Snapchat**, set their minimum age for users at **13 years old**, which is something to bear in mind when your child expresses interest.



## TikTok

**TikTok** is officially rated **13+**, meaning children under 13 should not have their own account. This age limit is based on privacy laws and the nature of the content shared on the platform, which can include trends, music, and videos that aren't always appropriate for younger users. Even for children over 13, TikTok's fast-moving feed can expose them to mature themes, so parents are encouraged to use features such as **Family Pairing**, which allows them to link their account with their child's to set screen-time limits, restrict direct messages, and manage content settings. While app-store ratings sometimes show **12+**, these reflect general content guidelines rather than TikTok's own age requirement, so it's important for parents to know the difference and stay involved in their child's use of the app.

## Snapchat

Snapchat's minimum age requirement is **13 years old**, meaning children under 13 are not allowed to create a standard Snapchat account. According to its policies, if Snapchat becomes aware that someone is under 13, the platform will delete the account and erase their data. Snapchat has some protections in place for teens (13-17), including a **Family Center** feature that lets parents link accounts to view their child's friend list and report concerns, though parents can't see every chat!



2simple  
Parenting in a  
**DIGITAL WORLD**

Supporting children's safety and wellbeing online is a major priority for both parents and teachers. The online world can sometimes feel confusing or overwhelming, and it's not always clear how to guide children through it effectively. To help, 2simple have created a '**Parenting in the Digital World**' guide which includes practical advice for supporting children at home, along with sections on cyberbullying, digital footprints, healthy content consumption, and more. This guide is designed to reassure parents and provide clear strategies for keeping children safe online. Please find this attached to the email.

Don't forget about the age-appropriate apps that your child has access to through school. If they do access them, then remember to record it in their red home learning diary!



Let's work together to keep our children safe online! If you have any concerns, please speak to your child's class teacher.