



Parent's  
Questions

### What age do you recommend allowing children on social media?

You'd think this answer would be easy, because there is clear guidance that declares that children have to be 13-years-old to be on SnapChat, Instagram and Facebook. It's because of COPPA, which stands for the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act, preventing companies from collecting certain information from kids under 13. Apps like Snap, Insta and Facebook actually ask your kids to enter their birthdate when they sign up. If they are under 13, they can't sign up... that is... unless they lie about their age, which is what most kids do. Some apps don't ask for age information, but in their privacy settings do claim that they cannot collect information from 13-year-olds... but who's checking?

Many parents aren't aware of these age requirements, and honestly, many don't care. Here's where parents need to remember they are the parent, and some boundaries are healthy. When your 11-year-old asks you if they can download SnapChat, this is a great time to reply, "Sorry, it's against the law. You have to wait until you're 13." Now you're off the hook... at least until they turn 13.

Experts like Common Sense Media agree that 13 is a good age to let your kids start using social media, but even then, they say "whether she is 10 or 16" set some realistic ground rules like using privacy settings, thinking before you post, etc. And that's the bottom line—don't just hand your kids a device at 13; teach them responsibility first. Use a book like *The Teen's Guide to Social Media & Mobile Devices* as a phone contract, helping them think through who they're friending, the pics they're posting, the content they've absorbing. Simply tell them, "When you finish the book, then you get your phone." Educate them and engage them in conversations about what it looks like to post wisely in an insecure world.



### Safeguarding Section

#### **FREE WORKSHOP**

Helping your child with Anxiety parent and carer workshop with Seba Thompson – 5<sup>th</sup> November 2021- if you would like attend contact the school office - 01535642271

**If you are concerned about the safety of a child, act!**  
Our Named Persons for Child Protection are Alice Jones, Gillian Dyson, Caroline Auty, Joanne Brown, Laura Smales and Oliver Thurlby

#### Useful phone numbers:

School – 01535 642271

Social Services Initial Contact Point 01274 437500

NSPCC – 0808 800 5000

West Yorkshire Police – 101 or 99