

Under Age use of Social Media

Dear Parents & Carers

Many of our students are accessing social media sites at home. Quite often this impacts on their relationships at school, their behaviour, and ultimately their well being and learning potential. I remind all parents and carers that social media sites have an age restriction. *Currently, the minimum age to open an account on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Pinterest, TikTok and Snapchat is 13. YouTube requires account holders to be 18, however a 13-year-old can sign up with a parent/carer's permission.*

Children under 13 do not have the capacity to make smart decisions online. Just because they seem technologically savvy at a young age, doesn't necessarily mean that their brains are developing at the same rate as their digital capabilities.

Research shows that it takes children about 12 years to fully develop the cognitive structures that enable them to engage in ethical thinking. Before 12 it's difficult, if not impossible, for a child to fully grasp the impact of their actions upon others, online or otherwise. Some children are increasingly joining social networking sites, sometimes even putting themselves in harm's way by becoming victims of online harassment, solicitation, and cyber-bullying before they are ready to respond appropriately.



I remind all parents and carers at Chisholm to consider placing restrictions on their child's use of social media if not banning them until they are of the recommended age .

Please contact me if you have any queries or concerns.

Sincerely

Michael Mifsud

Principal