



Clayfield College

Dear Families and Caregivers,

As we begin another exciting year of learning and growth, I want to take this opportunity to share important information that will affect our students and their online safety. As you may be aware, in September 2025, Australia will introduce new laws surrounding age limits for social media, and I believe it's crucial for parents to be informed about these changes. These changes are designed to improve online safety, protect young users from harmful content, and ensure that parents have more control over their children's online experiences. As our students spend more time online, understanding these new regulations will help us work together to ensure they are using social media safely and responsibly.

### 1. New Age Verification Requirements

Starting in September 2025, social media companies in Australia will be required to ensure that users are the correct age before they can access their platforms. This means that platforms like Instagram, Facebook, TikTok, and others will have stricter age verification measures in place to ensure children and teens are not accessing content meant for older audiences.

For parents, this means that platforms may ask for more personal information or use tools to check a user's age. Although this may feel intrusive, these steps are being taken to protect children from inappropriate content and online dangers. It's important to talk to your child about why these measures are in place and how they can help keep them safe online.

### 2. Stronger Restrictions on Harmful Content

The new laws will also place greater emphasis on limiting harmful content for young people. Social media platforms will be required to remove harmful content more quickly, including cyberbullying, hate speech, explicit material, and misinformation. This is a big win for parents who are worried about their children encountering negative or dangerous content.

However, it's important to remember that no system is perfect. As a parent, it's still a good idea to monitor your child's online activity and have regular conversations about what they are seeing on their social media feeds. Remind them that if they ever encounter anything upsetting, they should come to you or a trusted adult for help.

### 3. Parental Control and Oversight Tools

The new laws will also encourage platforms to give parents more control over their children's social media accounts. This could include tools that allow you to monitor who your child interacts with, what kind of content they are exposed to, and even how much time they spend on social media.

By September 2025, platforms will be required to offer clearer and more accessible settings for parents to use. This might include setting time limits, restricting access to certain types of content, or giving you the ability to review your child's activity on the platform. Parents will be able to set restrictions that are suitable for their child's age and maturity level.

Let your light *shine*

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#### 4. Increased Accountability for Social Media Companies

The new laws will also hold social media companies more accountable for what happens on their platforms. If they don't comply with the regulations—such as failing to remove harmful content quickly or not properly verifying users' ages—they may face penalties. This is a significant change because it means that platforms can no longer ignore the impact they have on young users.

For parents, this is a good sign that there will be more oversight and responsibility from social media companies. It also means that these companies will be expected to work harder to create safer environments for children.

#### 5. Education on Online Safety

Along with these new laws, there will be more efforts to educate children, parents, and teachers about online safety. Clayfield College will continue to incorporate lessons on responsible social media use and how to protect students online, and we will share resources, including our Care@Clayfield presenter series throughout the year, where we will learn about the latest social media trends, risks, and privacy settings. This will ensure you stay informed and understand how you can guide your child through the online world safely.

#### 6. What Parents Can Do Now

While the laws don't take effect until September 2025, it's a good idea to start preparing now. Here are a few steps you can take to support your child's online safety:

- **Talk openly with your child:** Have regular conversations about what they're doing online, who they're talking to, and what content they're seeing. Encourage them to share any negative experiences.
- **Set up parental controls:** Explore and use the parental controls available on social media platforms and other apps. Many platforms allow you to limit screen time, set age restrictions, and monitor activity.
- **Educate about privacy:** Teach your child about the importance of keeping their personal information private. Help them understand what types of information should never be shared online.
- **Stay up to date:** Keep informed about the changes in social media laws and new safety tools as they become available. This will help you guide your child through the changes.

In the College Diary, the Welcome Letters, and linked [here](#), you will find the College's Responsible User Technology Agreement. This document is explicitly shared with all students throughout the year, as a reminder of the specific rules that the College expects all students to uphold. Thank you for your partnership and supporting the staff with these expectations.

Open communication between parents, schools, and the broader community will be key in navigating this new landscape. As we partner in this effort, we can share valuable resources and set clear expectations when it comes to online use. Together, we can help our children make the most of the digital world while keeping their safety and well-being a top priority.

Our ICT Team and staff are always available to discuss any concerns with you.

Your sincerely



Audrey Fellowes  
Deputy Principal-Pastoral/Head of Primary

