



KINROSS WOLAROI SCHOOL

27 November 2025

Parent Information Memo – Social Media Age Restrictions (Updated 2025)

Dear Parents and Carers

The Australian Government, through the eSafety Commissioner, has introduced significant changes to how children and young people access social media. These changes aim to promote safer online environments and support young people's wellbeing by limiting access to social media platforms for users under the age of 16. Below is an overview of what this means for families and how you can support your child during this transition.

1. What's Changing

From 10 December 2025, under the Online Safety Amendment (Social Media Minimum Age) Act 2024, social media platforms classified as 'age-restricted social media platforms' must take reasonable steps to prevent Australians under 16 from creating or maintaining accounts. This legislation is overseen by the eSafety Commissioner under the Online Safety Act 2021.

2. Which Platforms Are Affected

The rules apply to services where a significant purpose is online social interaction (posting, commenting, following). Likely affected platforms include TikTok, Instagram, Snapchat, Facebook, X (Twitter), and YouTube (for logged-in use). Viewing public content without an account (e.g. on YouTube) remains possible, but posting or commenting may not be allowed.

3. Apps That May Be Excluded from the Minimum Age Rule

Apps and services not primarily designed for social networking—such as messaging, gaming, educational or health apps—may be excluded under current legislation. This includes platforms where the main function is not social posting or interaction, such as WhatsApp, iMessage, Google Classroom, Roblox, Minecraft, Fortnite, Microsoft Teams and YouTube (no account).

4. How Parents Can Support Their Children

- Start the Conversation – Talk about why these changes are being introduced, focusing on wellbeing and balance.
- Use Built-In Controls – Enable restrictions on devices (Screen Time on iOS, Family Link on Android).
- Add Parental Control Apps – Qustodio, Net Nanny, Kaspersky Safe Kids, or Google Family Link.
- Encourage Healthy Habits – Keep devices out of bedrooms, set downtime rules, and model balanced screen use.



5. Common Questions

- Is this a total ban?
No. It only prevents under-16s from holding accounts on social-media platforms where the main purpose is social networking.
- Can my child still message friends?
Yes, through messaging apps (WhatsApp, iMessage, etc.) that are not primarily social-networking services.
- What if my child already has an account?
Platforms will begin reviewing and removing under-16 accounts as part of compliance.
- Will there be penalties for families?
No. The responsibility rests with the platforms, not individuals.

6. Helpful Resources for Parents

eSafety Commissioner – Social Media Age Restrictions Overview: <https://www.esafety.gov.au/about-us/industry-regulation/social-media-age-restrictions>

eSafety Parents Webinar: 'Social Media Age Restrictions Explained':
<https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents/webinars/social-media-age-restrictions-explained-guide-for-parents-and-carers>

YouTube – Online Safety Guide to Parental Controls (eSafety Australia):
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c6odst87Tbo>





eSafety – Parental Controls Information: <https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents/issues-and-advice/parental-controls>

Beacon – Managing Screen Time and Digital Wellbeing: <https://beacon.thekids.org.au/>

7. Helpful Resources for students

Kids Helpline: [Social media under 16s ban | The good, the bad and your brain](#)

ReachOut: [Dealing with change from the social media ban](#)

HeadSpace: [The Social Media Ban: a guide for young people | headspace](#)

8. Boarding at Kinross Wolaroi School

As with many aspects of the care of boarding students, this is a collaborative process between parents and boarding staff who act *In Loco Parentis*. While staff will monitor device use, it is essential that parents make decisions regarding the type of device they send to school and the controls they wish to implement.

Safe and appropriate device use is just one area where young people need support to develop self-control and responsible habits. In Boarding at Kinross Wolaroi, we do not advocate for prohibition; rather, we seek to foster positive character development and self-restraint.

Boarding is a trust-based system. Boarders are given the opportunity to do the right thing with their personal devices, but we have clear guidelines, behavioural expectations and consequences, alongside pastoral supports.

These include:

- **Lockable charging towers** where devices are stored overnight and during device-free times.
- **Personalised tech use expectations** for students spending excessive time on devices.
- **Mobile Phone Policy and device use limited to specific areas and times** to encourage balance and community engagement.
- **Device confiscation** in instances of repeated inability to adhere to boarding guidelines.

In addition, boarding staff will:

- **Promote Face-to-Face Interaction** – Encourage conversations, shared activities, and friendships that thrive without screens.
- **Support Digital Wellbeing** – Provide guidance on healthy device use and help students navigate this transition with empathy and understanding.
- **Offer Pastoral Support** – Recognise that some students may feel disconnected initially; our team will be available to listen and assist with alternative ways to stay in touch with family and friends.
- **Structure phone free activities and times**- to support connection amongst peers and staff.

Our goal is to help students learn balance, responsibility, and respect for community life-skills that will serve them well beyond their time in boarding.



9. At Kinross Wolaroi School

We will continue to educate students on digital citizenship and responsible technology use through PDHPE K – 12, Digital Technologies K-10 and the KWS Compass Programs.

If you have concerns about your child's online activity or wellbeing, please contact the KWS Wellbeing Team. The Team will be able to signpost you and your child to resources to help students thrive safely both online and offline.

The School's Student Digital Agreement and Positive Behaviour Policy have been updated with reference to Social Media Age Restrictions.

Kind regards

Dr Andrew Parry
Principal