



Holy Spirit Community School

Ph: 9876 1103
120 Oban Rd, Ringwood North VIC 3134

Social Media Age Restrictions: What parents need to know

From 10 December, some social media platforms will be required to take reasonable steps to prevent children under 16 years of age from creating or keeping an account.

The age restrictions are likely to apply to Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok, X (formerly Twitter) and YouTube, among other platforms.

At this stage, the restrictions do not apply to online gaming platforms, such as Minecraft, Roblox and Fortnite, or stand-alone messaging applications such as Messenger Kids or WhatsApp. This could change in the future if the primary purpose of these platforms changes. Youtube Kids is also exempt from the restrictions because it has inbuilt parental controls and is designed with age-appropriate content.

What this means for parents

If your child currently has a social media account, it will be deactivated by the platform on 10 December. If they try to create a new account, the platform will need to verify their age.

Can kids still watch YouTube videos?

Yes, children will still be able to watch YouTube videos without an account. At school, teachers are responsible for ensuring educational video content they use to support their teaching is safe and appropriate. At home, parents have a responsibility to supervise the content that their children consume online.

What is the point of the Social Media Minimum Age restriction?

Children under 16 are vulnerable to the pressures and risks associated with social media. Delaying access until children are 16 or older gives our kids more time to develop their maturity, digital literacy and resilience. This new restriction also takes the pressure off parents and carers from being 'the bad guy' when their kids ask for social media accounts, because it reduces peer pressure and fear of social exclusion.

Can children or parents be prosecuted if they break this law?

No, the law applies to the social media platforms, not the individuals.

Can children reactivate their account when they turn 16?

This will be up to the individual platforms. If your child has an account with photos and videos they want to keep, they should download this data before 10 December to be certain it is not lost.

Holy Spirit's position on the Social Media Age Restriction

At our school, we have seen first-hand the damage and pain caused by inappropriate social media use by children. While we respect every family's right to make the best choice for their circumstances when it comes to online activity, we believe that these restrictions will make a positive difference in the lives of our students and our wider school community.

Search engine age verification also coming soon

Google and Microsoft search engines will also introduce age verification for logged in users by the end of 2025, to limit children's access to pornography, high-impact violence, material that promotes eating disorders and other harmful content.

Want to know more?

For more information, visit the [Social Media Age Restrictions Hub](#). You can also register for a free 30min webinar for parents to help understand these changes and how you can support your children.

Duncan Arendse
Principal

Ben Lannen
Wellbeing Leader