

**Bedfont Primary School**  
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**Mr G. Davis**  
Headteacher

Dear Parents / Carers

It has recently been brought to our attention that a number of our pupils have created YouTube channel accounts and are using these to post videos of themselves online. Whilst this is not illegal, the minimum age requirement to create a YouTube account is 13, creating an account for younger children breaks the terms and conditions of the site. Younger children may have the skills to create an account, film and post video, yet not have the maturity to be fully aware of the dangers that they may face online.

Some children at our school have been identified as leaving themselves vulnerable for the following reasons:

- Use of real name - we teach our children not to share any personal information online but there are accounts which have been created using children's full names.
- Wearing school uniform - some children have been creating videos and posting them whilst wearing our school uniform, this reveals personal information about the child.
- Identifying addresses and places of interest - some of the videos that children have created and uploaded identify places where they spend a lot of time as well as names of their friends.

All this information allows other users to potentially build a friendship with your child based upon facts that they have been able to gather by watching videos that your child and their friends have uploaded. Unfortunately, on rare occasions, children can be harmed by online contact and content. If your child does have a YouTube account could we please ask that you look at it with them and check the content they have uploaded.

YouTube has created an App for children under 13 years of age called 'YouTube Kids', which is available on Google Play and Apple's App store. This app uses stronger filtering algorithms to help keep children safe. We would also like to remind you that all our children have access to the school's DB learning platform, which provides them with a safe space in which to share and comments on photos and videos with their school friends.

As a school we are keen to support you in keeping your children safe online. We will be holding an e-safety meeting on Tuesday January 30<sup>th</sup> at 15:30 in the KS2 ICT suite during which we will offer advice and tips on security settings and parental restrictions on popularly used sites and apps. If you have a portable device you may wish to bring it along.

