

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

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St Mary's Catholic Primary School Newsletter



Roulette style video /chat apps

Chat roulette style apps work by pairing people together anonymously to chat (and video chat) to each other. **Due to the anonymous nature of these apps, we would always recommend that they are not suitable for under 18s.**

There is often a lot of inappropriate content and behaviour on these apps and your child is at risk of grooming as a stranger may try to connect with your child initially on an anonymous app and then encourage them to continue chatting on another app.

It is also important that your child is aware that what they say and do whilst video chatting can be recorded and shared later without their knowledge.

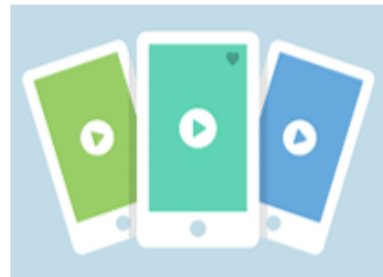
You should talk to your child about who they chat with and what they are sharing when they do. As with all apps and websites that your child accesses, make sure they know how to use any reporting tools and they know how to block other users if necessary.

The NSPCC discuss chat apps in general as well as how to talk to your child about what they are sharing with others online here:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/social-media/chat-apps/>

CapCut

Have you heard of CapCut? It is owned by the same owners as TikTok and is a video editing app. CapCut state that their services are intended for those over the age of 13 and those under the age of 18 must have consent from their parent/legal guardian. It is rated as 12+ on the App store. The App store have rated it as this because of *Infrequent/Mild Mature/Suggestive Themes, Infrequent/Mild Sexual Content and Nudity.*



What can I do on CapCut?

CapCut is used as a video and image editing tool allowing users to edit their videos/images as well as add music, sound effects, text and stickers.

What should I be aware of?

- The templates are user generated, therefore they may not always be appropriate for your child to view, for example adult themes.
- CapCut includes access to a library of music that can be used within videos that may include explicit lyrics.
- Premium content – CapCut does include in-app purchases/monthly subscriptions allowing users access to premium content.

Further information

Protect Young Eyes have published a full review of CapCut here:
<https://protectyouneyes.com/apps/capcut-app-review/>

Harmful Online Challenges

Lisa Kenevan and Hollie Dance both lost their sons to dangerous online challenges. They share their advice and tips with Internet Matters to help protect children from harmful online challenges. Internet Matters have also included links to further resources regarding online challenges at the below link:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/parent-stories/tips-protect-children-harmful-online-challenges/>

Being unkind online

It can be very easy online for children to behave in a way that they would not if they were face to face with each other.

Talk to your child about how they speak to others online and encourage them to talk to people online with respect and kindness, like they would if they were face-to-face. How they act online should be how they behave on the school playground when they are following school rules. Here are some examples of what being unkind looks like online:



- Sending nasty or hurtful messages
- Leaving unkind comments
- Sharing photographs of somebody else without their permission
- Excluding somebody on purpose
- Impersonating somebody with a fake account
- Telling/sharing lies

The above might happen whilst your child is gaming online or whilst using social media or messaging apps for example.

What should I do if my child is being bullied online?

Ensure that your child understands that if they receive unkind messages or see something that worries them, they should not reply or engage in conversation with the perpetrator. Instead, they should tell a trusted adult. You can use the tools within an app to report any offensive or hurtful content as well as block people so they cannot contact them again in the future.



Starting a conversation with your child

BBC Own It have curated a selection of videos and quizzes with ideas and advice to help make the web a kinder place. You could use these to help you start a conversation with your child.

<https://www.bbc.com/ownit/curations/being-kind-online>

Further information

- <https://bulliesout.com/need-support/be-kind-online/>
- <https://bekindonline.com/category/cyber-safety-tips/>

Summertime Screen Time



The Ineqe Safeguarding Group have published information on their website to help you manage your child's screentime during the summer break. Their website includes top tips for managing screen time, activities and guides to popular apps:

<https://ineqe.com/2024/06/20/summer-time-screen-time-2024/>

Helping your child transition to secondary school

Is your child moving to secondary school in September? Internet Matters have published lots of useful advice and resources to help you during this transition, including discussing if your child is ready for a smartphone and explaining the challenges they may face in secondary school:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/moving-to-secondary-school-online-safety-guide/>

Accessibility features

There are many accessibility features available on iPhone and Android phones to support those with vision, speech and cognitive needs for example. You can find out more here:

iPhone: <https://support.apple.com/en-gb/guide/iphone/iph3e2e4367/ios>

Android: <https://support.google.com/accessibility/android/answer/6006564?hl=en-GB>

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we wrap up another busy week at St Mary's Catholic Primary School, I wanted to share some highlights and a few important updates. Our staff and children have been working hard, and we've had some wonderful achievements across the board!

Attendance

We continue to focus on improving attendance, and our weekly Wednesday meetings with our Educational Welfare Officer, Mrs. Jones, and myself have been really helpful in keeping things on track. These meetings allow us to look closely at attendance, particularly for those children who have been missing school a bit more than we'd like.

We can't stress enough how important regular attendance is for your child's learning. Missing even just one day in every ten can really add up and impact their progress. While we've seen an improvement in attendance from some children, there are still a few who are missing valuable learning time. Unfortunately, this has affected our school's Ofsted rating for behaviour and personal development, as the inspectors noted the impact of poor attendance. It's disappointing, especially since most of our children are doing wonderfully in these areas, but we are determined to make sure every child has the chance to succeed, but we need everyone on board.

Consistent attendance is key to children's growth and success, both now and in the future. So, we kindly ask for your help in ensuring that your child attends school regularly. Your support is vital, and together we can help all our children make the most of their education. Could we kindly ask that, if your child hasn't been feeling well and needs to go home, you mention this quietly to the class teacher, rather than in earshot of the child? When children overhear this, they often end up asking to go home, even if they were feeling fine initially. Your understanding is much appreciated. We will call home if your child is not well enough to complete the school day.

Scooters and Bikes

On a safety note, we've noticed some children riding scooters and bikes on the playground, which can be risky. We'd really appreciate it if children could avoid riding scooters and bikes on school grounds and only push them when entering or leaving. This will help us keep everyone safe.

Dates for your Diary

There are new dates for your diary below. Please pop them on your calendars too.

Thank you

As always, thank you so much for your ongoing support. The partnership between home and school is what makes our community so strong, and together, we can continue to create a fantastic environment for all our children to thrive. If you have any questions or concerns about attendance or anything else, please don't hesitate to reach out. We're here to support you and your child every step of the way.

Thank you once again for your support.

Warm regards,
Mrs Griffiths

PODS



Upcoming events run by PODS in Telford.

Please click the link or visit the PODS website for more information

- [Sensory Session aged 0-6 years](#) - January 27, 2025 - 3:45 pm - 4:45 pm
- [Games & Tech Session - PODS Activity Sessions](#) - January 27, 2025 - 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm
- [Blossom & Bloom Stay and Play](#) - January 28, 2025 - 10:00 am - 11:30 am
- [Minecraft Club](#) - January 28, 2025 - 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm
- [Sensory Sessions Age 7-11](#) - January 29, 2025 - 3:45 pm - 4:45 pm

- [Sensory Session aged 0-6 years](#) - February 3, 2025 - 3:45 pm - 4:45 pm
- [Blossom & Bloom Stay and Play](#) - February 4, 2025 - 10:00 am - 11:30 am
- [Minecraft Club](#) - February 4, 2025 - 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm
- [Sensory Sessions Age 7-11](#) - February 5, 2025 - 3:45 pm - 4:45 pm
- [Sensory Session aged 0-6 years](#) - February 10, 2025 - 3:45 pm - 4:45 pm
- [Blossom & Bloom Stay and Play](#) - February 11, 2025 - 10:00 am - 11:30 am
- [Minecraft Club](#) - February 11, 2025 - 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm
- [Sensory Sessions Age 7-11](#) - February 12, 2025 - 3:45 pm - 4:45 pm

[Catholic Social Justice](#)

Here are some interesting Catholic social justice facts that can inspire and engage children in the UK:

Catholic Social Teaching: Catholic Social Teaching (CST) is a set of principles that guide Catholics to work for a more just and fair society. It focuses on the dignity of every person, the importance of helping the poor, and working for peace and justice. This teaching helps children understand how to live out their faith through actions that benefit others.

The Year of Mercy (2015-2016): In 2015, Pope Francis declared a "Year of Mercy," which focused on showing kindness, compassion, and forgiveness. During this year, Catholics around the world were encouraged to reach out to those in need, support refugees, and practice mercy in their daily lives.

Supporting Refugees: The Catholic Church has been a strong advocate for refugees. In the UK, many Catholic charities, such as Caritas and CAFOD, work to support refugees, providing food, shelter, and legal support. This helps children understand how important it is to welcome and help those who are fleeing from danger.

The Common Good: Catholic Social Teaching encourages working for the common good – that is, ensuring that everyone in society has access to what they need to live a good life, such as. This teaches children to think about others' needs and how to care for the community as a whole.

Laudato Si' – Care for Creation: In 2015, Pope Francis published an encyclical called *Laudato Si'*, which calls on everyone to care for the planet. The letter highlights the importance of protecting the environment and fighting climate change. This is an important message for children, as it teaches them to respect and protect nature for future generations.

Fair Trade: Catholic organizations like CAFOD promote Fair Trade, which ensures that workers in poorer countries are paid fairly for their work and can work in good conditions. By supporting Fair Trade products, children can help improve the lives of people around the world by making choices that respect human dignity.

The Work of Catholic Charities: Catholic charities, such as St. Vincent de Paul (SVP), help people who are homeless, sick, or in need. In the UK, these organizations support communities by providing food banks, shelters, and support for people facing poverty. This helps children learn how their actions can make a real difference in the lives of others.

The Beatitudes: In the Gospel, Jesus teaches the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-12), which include blessings for those who are poor, mourn, hunger for justice, and work for peace. These teachings show children the importance of caring for others, especially those who are suffering or in need.

Justice for the Poor: The Catholic Church has always advocated for the rights of the poor and marginalized. For example, during the 19th and 20th centuries, Catholic social reformers worked to improve conditions for wages, and campaign for workers' rights. This inspires children to think about fairness and equality in society.

Pope Francis and the Call to Action: Pope Francis has been a strong voice calling for action on issues such as poverty, climate change, and inequality. He encourages young people to be active participants in making the world a better place. His messages often challenge children to consider how they can play a part in improving society, whether through small acts of kindness or larger efforts to address injustice.

Dates for your Diary

07.02.25	Year 1 Fire of London Day	This will be an exciting day of adventure for our year 1 pupils. Mrs Lambie will communicate more information regarding this if necessary.
12.02.25	Recorder Festival	Mrs Rushton will be taking a group of children to this record a festival to celebrate the progress they have made in playing the instrument during their after-school club.
14.02.25	Break-up	Children break up for half term.
26.02.25	Faiths around the world's day	Children across school will be celebrating the different faiths around the world.
03.03.25	Year 6 SATs parents meetings	There will be two meeting for parents, one straight after school and one at 5pm. These meetings are to enable parents to better understand the SATs and how to support their child. Year 6 parents only.
05.03.25	Ash Wednesday Service in school	Father Michael will be leading an Ash Wednesday service at our school at 9:15 am.
06.03.25	World Book Day	children are invited to come to school dressed as one of their favourite characters from a book of their choice.
07.03.25	Year 2 curriculum assembly	Children in year 2 will be sharing the work they've been doing in their class. All parents of year two children are invited. This will begin at approximately 8:55 AM in the hall.
19.03.25	Photographer in school	the school photographer will be taking photos of individual children, teams, and siblings. More information will be provided closer to the date

28.03.25	Year 3 curriculum assembly	Children in year 3 will be sharing the work they've been doing in their class. All parents of year two children are invited. This will begin at approximately 8:55 AM in the hall.
01.04.25	Year 6 trip-Shropshire discovery centre	
03.04.25	Year 2 Trip to Cosford	
09.04.25	Easter Egg Hunt	
10.04.24	Children break-up	
11.04.25	PD day	
28.04.25	Return to school	
05.05.25	Bank Holiday Monday	
06.05.25	Reception Trip to Hoo Farm	
09.05.25	Year 4 curriculum assembly	Children in year 4 will be sharing the work they've been doing in their class. All parents of year two children are invited. This will begin at approximately 8:55 AM in the hall.
12.05.25	Year 6 SATS week	These tests assess children's knowledge and understanding in core subjects: English (reading and grammar, punctuation, and spelling) and mathematics. The results help teachers understand how well children have progressed and are used to inform the transition to secondary school.
23.05.25	Leavers mass in Shrewsbury Break up	Our 6 children will be travelling to Shrewsbury to celebrate mass together with other year 6 children from Catholic schools across Shropshire
03.06.25	KS1 Sports day	Families of children are invited to come and spectate our Sports Days. These will begin at approximately 9:00 AM.
05.06.25	KS2 Sports day	
20.06.25	Year 1 curriculum assembly	Children in year 1 will be sharing the work they've been doing in

		their class. All parents of year two children are invited. This will begin at approximately 8:55 AM in the hall.
23.06.25	Parents Evening	More information to follow.
24.06.25	Parents Evening	
04.07.25	Reception curriculum assembly	Children in Reception will be sharing the work they've been doing in their class. All parents of year two children are invited. This will begin at approximately 8:55 AM in the hall.
18.07.25	Year 6 Leavers Assembly	Parents of children in year 6 will be invited to our leavers assembly to celebrate the children's years spent here at Saint Mary's Catholic primary school. The assembly begins at approximately 9:00 AM and should last just over an hour.
	Children break-up for summer	
21.07.25	PD day	