



PUNGGOL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Punggol Cyber News (November -December)

SOCIAL MEDIA


Our last issue talked about **Online Games Children Play**. We hope the information had been useful to you. In this issue, we would like to introduce **Popular Social Media** (including streaming content), their age limits and possible dangers for children. We hope that in understanding these, parents will be able to help their children connect safely online.


What is Social Media?



Social Media are online platforms where people connect, share media content, and form social networks with others. These platforms include Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp, Tumblr, Instagram, Pinterest, Skype, YouTube, Viber and Snapchat.



What is Streaming Content?

Streaming content is an audio or video file on the Internet that is played as the file is being downloaded.

	Examples of Social Media	Description
1		<p>An online video-sharing platform. YouTube is user-uploaded, so not everything is categorised with the appropriate restrictions.</p> <p>Age limits: 13 and older</p> <p>Risks: There are possibilities of exposure to undesirable content when the content is not categorized appropriately. Some of these videos may affect a child's judgment, leading to increased stress, anxiety or even feelings of depression. Children could also be addicted to the short clips when the videos automatically start playing one after another. The</p>

		<p>appearance of advertisements may also promote undesirable lifestyle.</p> <p><u>Child Safety Policy:</u> On August 21, 2019, YouTube expanded their child safety policies to better protect the family experience on YouTube. Content that targets young minors and families but contains sexual themes, violence, obscene, or other mature themes that are not suitable for young audiences, is not allowed on YouTube.</p> <p><u>Parental Control:</u> Yes Parents can restrict children's YouTube access within their YouTube settings. Enable the Restricted Mode setting to help avoid inappropriate content flagged by other users and YouTube signals.</p> <p>For further reading, you may refer to: https://www.care.com/c/stories/16410/how-youtube-affects-kids/</p>
2		<p>A social networking site that makes it easy for people to connect and share thoughts, photos and videos with family and friends online. Some children will enter fake information in order to create an account.</p> <p><u>Age limits:</u> 13 and older</p> <p><u>Risks:</u> The information is being shared with third parties which may include advertisers. Privacy may be at risk as children may not be aware of how to change the settings. Facebook ads may contain malware. Scammers could create fake profiles in order to steal information.</p> <p><u>Parental Control:</u> No Parents will need to monitor if their own children are on Facebook and the friends they befriend online.</p> <p>For more details, refer to: https://www.cnet.com/news/five-hidden-dangers-of-facebook-q-a/</p>

3	 Instagram	<p>A free photo and video sharing app available on iPhone and Android. People can upload and shared photos or videos to Instagram with their followers or with a selected group of friends. They can also view, comment and like posts shared by their friends on Instagram.</p> <p><u>Age limits:</u> 13 and older</p> <p><u>Risks:</u> Similar to Facebook, constantly posting online and following accounts online may lead to an obsession with the number of followers. This may adversely promote anxiety and lowering self-esteem.</p> <p><u>Parental Control:</u> Yes</p> <p>Parents can install a third-party app like SecureTeen on your child's phone or enable the inbuilt parental controls offered by Instagram.</p> <p>For more details, refer to:</p> <p>https://www.connectsafely.org/instagram</p> <p>https://www.secureteen.com/parental-control/instagram-parental-control</p>
4	 Snapchat	<p>An application for mobile device users to send time-limited photos and videos (called snaps) to other users. These snaps sent on Snapchat disappear seconds after they're viewed as the sender gets to decide how long a photo will "live" after it's viewed.</p> <p><u>Age limits:</u> 13 and older</p> <p><u>Risks:</u> Snapchat does not save pictures and messages sent so you cannot keep them to view again later. If a receiver takes a screenshot of the photo message while it is live, the sender is notified, but that does not prevent the photo from being shared later with others. So, one should not develop a false sense of security about sending the snaps as there are ways to capture and recover images.</p> <p><u>Parental Control:</u> Yes</p> <p>Snapchat has built-in parental controls features that give your child control over who can see their content and who can contact them. There are also ways that</p>

		your child can report offensive content that they see from other users.
5	 DISCORD	<p>A chat app geared specifically toward video game players, providing them with ways to find each other, coordinate play, and talk while playing. It supports video calls, voice chat, and text.</p> <p><u>Age limits:</u> At least 13 years old</p> <p><u>Risks:</u> As with any online forum, there could be use of undesirable language among users.</p> <p><u>Parental Control:</u> No</p> <p>At this time, Discord does not offer parental controls, so there's no way for parents to restrict content or password-protect the privacy settings within the app.</p> <p>For more details, refer to: https://www.familyzone.com </p>
6	 Tik Tok	<p>A social network for sharing user-generated videos, mostly of people lip-synching to popular songs. It was originally called musical.ly (pronounced MU-zik-lee). Users can create and upload their own videos where they lip-synch, sing, dance, or just talk.</p> <p><u>Age limits:</u> At least 13 years old.</p> <p><i>*There is a section of the app for children under 13 that includes additional safety and privacy features. Children can only see curated, clean videos, and are not allowed to comment, search, or post their own videos.</i></p> <p><u>Risks:</u> Inappropriate content</p> <p><u>Parental Control:</u> Yes</p> <p>Parents can manage access to TikTok and other apps rated 12+ through settings in Apple and Android devices.</p> <p>For more details, refer to: https://www.common sense media.org/blog/parents-ultimate-guide-to-tiktok https://www.connectsafely.org/tiktok </p>

These are some of the popular online platforms where our children might connect, share media content, and form social networks with others.

Parents are strongly encouraged to play an active role and be aware of the online platforms that our children may be visiting daily to help protect our children's well-being. We also encourage to help ensure that your child's use of technical devices is balanced with exercise, school work and other activities.

As we are drawing close to the end of the year, we would like to hear from you if the newsletters have been beneficial. Kindly take a moment to fill up the survey as attached in the link [here](#). Thank you for your support!

Brought to you by the PPS Cyber Wellness Team.