THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Safeguarding: Minimum Age for Social Media Platforms

Purpose
To provide an overview of how to find the most up-to-date minimum age requirements and safety information for popular social media and messaging platforms used by children and young people in the UK.

Important notes

- Church groups should never ask or help children to join a platform before they are old enough, or work around age rules. Platform age limits are there for safety and must be respected.
- Platforms change their terms, age limits and safety features regularly, especially in response to new online safety laws.
- This document does not list specific ages. Always use the live Internet Matters guidance to check the current minimum age and safety tools.
- Age limits are usually set by the company as part of its terms and conditions and privacy rules.
- Age limits normally refer to creating a standard account. Some higher-risk features (for example, live streaming, gifting or payments) may have higher age limits.
- Age limits and features can vary by country or region. This sheet is written for a UK context.

Where to find the latest minimum age & safety information

For current minimum ages and platform-specific safety tools, always use this page below:

What age can my child start using social media?

Further information & up-to-date guidance

Church of England resources:

- Church of England Safeguarding e-manual
- Safeguarding policy and practice guidance : Overview page linking to national policies and practice guidance
- Church of England social media community guidelines : values and expectations for behaviour on official CofE social media accounts
- Creating a social media policy for your church | The Church of England
- Digital Labs : Creating a social media policy for your church.

External sites (regularly updated):

- Internet Matters : What age can my child start social networking?
- NSPCC: Keeping children safe online
- NSPCC: Online safety: guidance and resources for organisations.