



# Knavesmire Primary School E-Safety Newsletter Updates - Autumn 1, 2022

Friday 21st October 2022

This is the first e-safety newsletter of the academic year of 2022-2023. Each half-term, we share an e-safety newsletter with you to provide support and guidance on keeping your child/children safe online.

## What is BeReal?

BeReal is a new social media app, released in 2020, but has recently become more popular. The app notifies you once a day to upload an image of what you are doing, at that moment, without having the option to edit your photo or what you share. Once you receive the notification, you have two minutes to capture and share a photo of whatever you're doing in that moment. All of your friends, who you choose to accept, post at the exact same time. Once you have posted, you can then see what your friends have posted. If you don't post your BeReal within the suggested 2 minute timeframe, then you'll post a 'late' BeReal. If you do not post, you won't be able to see what your friends have posted on BeReal that day or have access to the discovery tab.

## What age should I be?

You must be 13+ years old to use BeReal. BeReal is rated as 12+ years old by Apple's App Store and rated for 'Teens' on Google Play. Users of the app are required to add their date of birth to register yet no age verification takes place. All users are required to add a mobile number to their account.

## How to report

You can report a BeReal photo or a user by clicking on the three dots, which are located next to the BeReal photograph itself or the user. You can block users on Android but can only remove or report on iOS (BeReal have said this functionality is coming soon). People you have accepted as 'friends' can be deleted at any time.

If your child is using BeReal, it is important that they are aware of what they are sharing on BeReal and check that they know how to use the reporting tools available.

## Further information

<https://www.childnet.com/blog/bereal-a-guide-for-parents-and-carers-about-the-new-social-media-app/>

## Useful websites:

Several websites have been sign posted, in previous e-safety newsletters, which are listed below.

- <https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers/>
- <https://saferinternet.org.uk/>
- <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>
- <https://www.internetmatters.org/>

Please also see our E-Safety page, on the school website, which highlights our E-Safety policy.



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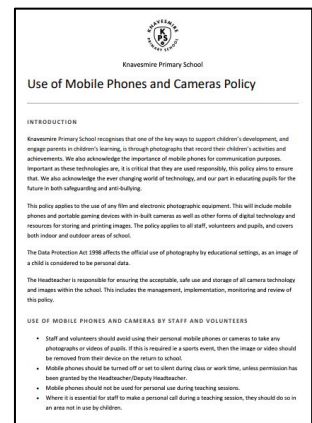
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## Use of Mobile Phones in School and Cameras in School

After half term, pupils in upper key stage two will receive a visit from our local PCSO. The PCSO is invited into school to discuss the importance of e-safety with our pupils. In upper key stage two, some children start to get mobile phones which are used for communicating with their parents and carers before and after school. Therefore, it is important that they receive an extra reminder about how to be safe online, particularly when using apps that have age restrictions on (e.g. BeReal and TikTok.)

As a reminder, phones are not allowed to be switched on or used in school or during school hours. This and more information is specified within our policy (image right) which can be found on the school website.

If your child has a mobile phone that they plan on bringing into school, to be used for communicating with their parents and carers before and after the school day, they need to complete a *Permission to bring a mobile phone into school* form. Once the form has been completed, this must then be authorised by Mr Cooper or Mr Gibson. A copy of the form can be found within the **Use of Mobile Phones and Cameras Policy** or from your child's teacher.



## WhatsApp Updates

WhatsApp will be releasing the following *new* Privacy features soon:

1. **Leave Groups Silently:** you will be able to exit a group chat privately. Only admins will be notified that you've left, rather than the entire group.
2. **Control Your Online Presence:** you will be able to select who can and who can't see when you're online.
3. **Screenshot Blocking for View Once Messages:** WhatsApp are enabling screenshot blocking for View Once messages. This feature is coming being tested but coming out soon!

For more information about these features, please use the link below. The information was posted on 9th August 2022, therefore will no doubt be coming soon.

<https://blog.whatsapp.com/>

