

Ref: KH/SS/FS/Online Safety

10th January 2025



**Important Information:
Raising Awareness of Online Safety Risks – The Wizz App**

Dear Parents and Carers

Barr Beacon School
www.barrbeaconschool.co.uk

I am writing to you today to highlight significant concerns regarding a social media application called Wizz, which is currently gaining popularity among young people. While the app advertises itself as a platform for teenagers and young adults to “safely and authentically express themselves” and connect with peers in their age group, there are serious risks associated with its use that every parent and carer should be aware of.

Wizz allows users to chat in real-time with others individuals all over the world. Despite its claims of maintaining a “secure and age-appropriate environment,” such platforms have repeatedly been found to expose young people to a wide range of potential dangers, including but not limited to:

- **Exposure to inappropriate or harmful content** such as bad language, adult themes, or explicit material.
- **Unregulated interactions with strangers**, increasing the risk of grooming or sexual exploitation.
- **Sharing of personal information**, which can make children vulnerable to scams, identity theft, or predatory behaviour.

The platform’s age-matching feature may provide a false sense of security, as there is no fully secure way to verify the true age or identity of users. Alarming, predators can easily misrepresent themselves as young people to gain the trust of children and exploit their vulnerabilities.

We strongly urge you to take the following steps to safeguard your child’s online presence:

1. **Engage in open discussions** about the dangers of social media platforms like Wizz and the importance of online safety.
2. **Regularly monitor your child’s online activity** and review the apps they use.
3. **Set boundaries** for screen time and establish rules about sharing personal information online.
4. Consider using **parental controls and content filters** to add an additional layer of protection.

At Barr Beacon School, we are committed to working with you to ensure our children are safe both offline and online. If you have any concerns or would like further advice on supporting your child in navigating the digital world safely, please contact your child’s Head of House, who will ensure your request is directed to the appropriate person.

Thank you for your ongoing support in keeping our children safe. Together, we can help them understand the risks and make informed choices in their online interactions.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs K Hibbs
Headteacher

Mrs S Saunders
Deputy Headteacher/ Designated Safeguarding Lead



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