



Safeguarding issue - WhatsApp

We have been alerted to a WhatsApp Group entitled "All Year 7s in Liverpool". This WhatsApp group allegedly contains indecent images, inappropriate language and negative comments about other children. We understand that this group has membership from young people attending schools across Liverpool.

We would strongly recommend that you check your child's phone and if they are in the group remove them and report the group to WhatsApp in the following way:

Report a group:

1. Click the group name, scroll down and select **Report group**
2. Click **Report and exit**

The last 5 messages from the group will be forwarded to WhatsApp. No one in the group will be notified.

If you are concerned about any illegal content you should report this directly to the police. Please also take this opportunity to speak to your children and remind them that if they have any indecent images on their phone or they have shared or forwarded any images, they have broken the law. The NSPCC share some excellent guidance about how to understand the risks and support your child if they have been sending, sharing or receiving nude images: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/sexting-sending-nudes/>.

Please also be reminded that the minimum age to use WhatsApp is 13 therefore children under this age should not be using it.

Internet Matters has some excellent advice about WhatsApp for parents and carers: <https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/whatsapp-safety-a-how-to-guide-for-parents/>. They also share advice about activating parental controls to manage screen time, block inappropriate content, prevent accidental spending and keep children safe: <https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/>.

The following link from the NSPCC also gives lots of good advice to parents regarding young people and WhatsApp: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-safety-blog/2023-01-12-is-whatsapp-safe-for-my-child/>.

I have copied a number of staff into this to just make you aware of the chat so you can keep an ear out and be mindful if you hear of any students upset or encouraging joining this chat .

Kathy Begley
Assistant Principal
Designated Safeguarding Lead