

# TARLETON ACADEMY PASTORAL & SAFEGUARDING UPDATE

## HALF TERM PASTORAL FOCUS

Are you ready to return?

- Uniform
- Attitude
- Behaviour
- Standards

## WHATSAPP GUIDANCE FOR PARENTS

*ATTACHED IS GUIDANCE FOR WHAT PARENTS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT  
WHATSAPP. PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO READ*

*THIS GUIDE AS IT CONTAINS LOTS OF INFORMATION ABOUT POTENTIAL RISKS  
AND ADVICE FOR USING THIS POPULAR MESSAGING APP.*

<https://www.kooth.com/>

An online mental wellbeing community for children and young people

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/>

Mental health support for young people

<https://www.annafreud.org/>

A mental health charity for children and families

<https://www.papyrus-uk.org/>

Suicide prevention in the young

<https://www.family-action.org.uk/what-we-do/children-families/familyline/>

Practical, emotional and financial support

HERE TO HELP...

# TARLETON ACADEMY PASTORAL & SAFEGUARDING UPDATE

## Snitching vs. Reporting

You are probably telling a tale if:

1. Your main reason is to get someone in trouble.
2. You can solve the problem yourself.
3. It's accidental.
4. It's harmless.
5. It can be ignored.
6. It's not important.



Report something if:

1. It gets someone out of danger and keeps them safe.
2. You need an adult's help.
3. It's been done on purpose.
4. It's harmful, dangerous or threatening.
5. It's stopping you from learning.
6. It's important.

## STUDENT CONCERNS

- We encourage all students and parents to report any concerns they may have.
- The main school contact for parents is [enquiries@tarletonacademy.org](mailto:enquiries@tarletonacademy.org)
- Should students not feel initially comfortable speaking with a member of PDC staff face to face, our students can also report any concerns via 'The Worry Box' - located on the student portal.

## PSHCE - PERIOD EDUCATION

- Mrs Crystal (Year 11 Pastoral Behaviour Manager) has been working with female students in all year groups to open discussions and remove stigma around periods in school.
- The conversations have taken place during tutor time and students have said how useful the information was and how safe and open the sessions were to ask questions and receive reminders for what to do in school.



We are currently in the process of setting up our new Pride Group - a newly introduced student-led LGBTQIA+ safe space for young queer people, people questioning their sexuality/gender, or allies wanting to learn and support.

This group has been made with the aim of combating homophobia, biphobia and transphobia within our school, and to make all of our students feel welcomed and comfortable.

During the meetings, members will get involved in interactive activities, take part in debates and discussions, meet new friends and be educated on issues related to sexual orientation, gender identity and expression.





# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about WHATSAPP



WhatsApp is the world's most popular messaging service, with around two billion users exchanging texts, photos, videos and documents, as well as making voice and video calls. Its end-to-end encryption means messages can only be viewed by the sender and any recipients: not even WhatsApp can read them. Updates to its privacy policy in 2021 (involving sharing data with parent company Facebook) caused millions to leave the app, but the new policy was widely misinterpreted – it only related to WhatsApp's business features, not to personal messages.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### SCAMS

Fraudsters occasionally send WhatsApp messages pretending to offer prizes – encouraging the user to click on a link to win. Other common scams involve warning someone that their WhatsApp subscription has run out (aiming to dupe them into disclosing payment details) or impersonating a friend or relative and asking for money to be transferred to help with an emergency.

### DISAPPEARING MESSAGES

Users can set WhatsApp messages to disappear in 24 hours, 7 days or 90 days by default. Photos and videos can also be instructed to disappear after the recipient has viewed them. These files can't be saved or forwarded – so if your child was sent an inappropriate message, it would be difficult to prove any wrongdoing. However, the receiver can take a screenshot and save that as evidence.

### ENABLING FAKE NEWS

WhatsApp has unfortunately been linked to accelerating the spread of dangerous rumours. In India in 2018, some outbreaks of mob violence appear to have been sparked by false allegations being shared on the app. WhatsApp itself took steps to prevent its users circulating hazardous theories and speculation in the early weeks of the Covid-19 pandemic.

### POTENTIAL CYBERBULLYING

Group chat and video calls are great for connecting with multiple people in WhatsApp, but there is always the potential for someone's feelings to be hurt by an unkind comment or joke. The 'only admins' feature gives the admin(s) of a group control over who can send messages. They can, for example, block people from posting in a chat, which could make a child feel excluded and upset.

### CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

To start a WhatsApp chat, you only need the mobile number of the person you want to message (the other person also needs to have the app). WhatsApp can access the address book on someone's device and recognise which of their contacts also use the app. So if your child has ever given their phone number to someone they don't know, that person could use it to contact them via WhatsApp.

### LOCATION SHARING

The 'live location' feature lets users share their current whereabouts, allowing friends to see their movements. WhatsApp describes it as a "simple and secure way to let people know where you are." It is a useful method for a young person to let loved ones know they're safe – but if they used it in a chat with people they don't know, they would be exposing their location to them, too.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

[CLICK HERE](#)

### CREATE A SAFE PROFILE

Even though someone would need a child's phone number to add them as a contact, it's also worth altering a young person's profile settings to restrict who can see their photo and status. The options are 'everyone', 'my contacts' and 'nobody' – choosing one of the latter two ensures that your child's profile is better protected.



### EXPLAIN ABOUT BLOCKING

If your child receives spam or offensive messages, calls or files from a contact, they should block them using 'settings' in the chat. Communication from a blocked contact won't show up on their device and stays undelivered. Blocking someone does not remove them from your child's contact list – so they also need to be deleted from the address book.



### REPORT POTENTIAL SCAMS

Young people shouldn't engage with any message that looks suspicious or too good to be true. When your child receives a message from an unknown number for the first time, they'll be given the option to report it as spam. If the sender claims to be a friend or relative, call that person on their usual number to verify it really is them, or if it's someone trying to trick your child.



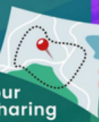
### LEAVE A GROUP

If your child is in a group chat that is making them feel uncomfortable, or has been added to a group that they don't want to be part of, they can use WhatsApp's group settings to leave. If someone exits a group, the admin can add them back in once; if they leave a second time, it is permanent.



### THINK ABOUT LOCATION

If your child needs to use the 'live location' function to show you or one of their friends where they are, advise them to share their location only for as long as they need to. WhatsApp gives a range of 'live location' options, and your child should manually stop sharing their position as soon as it is no longer needed.



### DELETE ACCIDENTAL MESSAGES

If your child posts a message they want to delete, WhatsApp allows the user seven minutes to erase a message. Tap and hold on the message, choose 'delete' and then 'delete for everyone.' However, it's important to remember that recipients may have seen (and taken a screenshot of) a message before it was deleted.



### CHECK THE FACTS

You can now fact-check WhatsApp messages that have been forwarded at least five times, by double-tapping the magnifying glass icon to the right of the message. From there, your child can launch a Google search and decide for themselves whether the message was true or not.



## Meet Our Expert

Parven Kaur is a social media expert and digital media consultant who is passionate about improving digital literacy for parents and children. She has extensive experience in the social media arena and is the founder of Kids N Clicks: a web resource that helps parents and children thrive in a digital world.



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