



Thursday 17th April 2025

WhatsApp and Inappropriate Social Media Usage

Dear Y6 Parents and Carers,

I am writing to bring to your attention a matter of concern that has arisen within our Year 6 cohort regarding the inappropriate use of WhatsApp and other social media platforms. We have been notified that a referral has been made to the police concerning inappropriate postings in a WhatsApp group associated with some of our children. The group is called 'World record group chat'.

Social media can serve as a valuable tool for communication; however, it also carries significant risks, especially when children engage in conversations that may not be suitable for their age and share inappropriate media. It is essential to bear in mind that the statutory age limit for accessing platforms such as WhatsApp is 13 years, and we urge you to review your child's accounts to ensure they are adhering to these guidelines.

We are committed to addressing this issue promptly and, in addition to our regular online safety and PHSE curriculum, will be speaking to the children about the importance of using social media responsibly, understanding the implications of their online interactions, and fostering a respectful digital environment. South Yorkshire police will also be visiting to discuss online safety and the legal implications of sending abusive messages or inappropriate material online. We wanted to inform you of this before it is discussed with the children.

We have identified a few children who we know are part of the group as their names have appeared on various screenshots provided to us by the police. We will be contacting these families personally; however, we do not possess the complete membership of the group, so if we do not contact you do not assume your child is not a member.

Please do take the time to discuss these issues with your children and make sure that you are aware who your children are communicating with and what kind of material they are sending and receiving.

Thank you for your attention to this serious matter and for your continued support.

Ben Ramsden
Headteacher