



Dear Parents and Carers,

We are increasingly seeing social media issues that begin outside of school but are then brought into the school environment. Addressing these situations can take significant time and can impact on our ability to focus fully on pupils' learning and wellbeing.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind parents and carers of the important role you play in supporting your child's safe and responsible use of technology. Many popular platforms, including TikTok, Instagram, Snapchat and Facebook, have a minimum age of 13, and WhatsApp is restricted to users aged 16+ in the UK. These age limits are in place to help protect children from online risks.

To support your awareness, we have outlined some of the common concerns we are seeing in relation to WhatsApp use:

- **Use at inappropriate times:** Some children are using devices late at night or in the early hours. We recommend that devices are kept out of bedrooms overnight to support both safety and wellbeing.
- **High volumes of messaging:** Group chats can generate large numbers of messages, which can feel overwhelming and often lack purpose. These can sometimes lead to disagreements.
- **Exclusion from groups:** Children may be removed from chats or talked about, which can be upsetting and difficult for them to manage emotionally.
- **Inappropriate language:** At times, language used in messages is not suitable for primary-aged children.
- **Misunderstandings:** Messages can easily be misread without tone or context, which can lead to unnecessary conflicts.

In school, we support children through our PSHE curriculum to understand online safety and respectful communication. However, as these issues happen outside of school, we rely on your support to help guide and manage your child's use of social media.

You may find it helpful to:

- Regularly check your child's device and conversations
- Set clear rules around usage (especially at night)
- Apply privacy settings and parental controls
- Encourage open conversations about online behaviour and respectful communication

By working together, we can help children develop safe, positive habits when using technology and support their overall wellbeing.

Thank you for your ongoing support

N. Downes