

Monday 25th November 2024

Use of WhatsApp and other Social Media Apps

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have been made aware that a number of the children in Year 6 have been accessing a group on Whatsapp. We have seen some of the messages in this chat and they are very inappropriate and upsetting. This is distressing for children mentioned in cruel comments and for their parents reading the messages.

Body image and self esteem are very important to all young people and negative comments can lead to a huge impact on children's mental health and happiness, the effects remaining with them as they get older.

Please be aware of the content your child is accessing on their phones or tablets, monitor the comments they are making and check that age-appropriate controls are in place. The safeguarding of children is the responsibility of us all.

Apps used on phones such as Facebook, Snapchat, Instagram, Whatsapp, YouTube, TikTok are all to be used from age 13 or older, so if your child is using social media platforms, please check again that this is occurring safely and that your child is only using apps which are age-appropriate.

Mobile phones are only allowed in school if needed for walking home independently or a parent contacts the class teacher with another reason. They are not used on the school site and are handed in to the class teacher to keep safely during the day. We frequently cover how to use the internet safely, as part of our PSHE and Computing curriculum and explore Safer Internet day annually, as well as an SEMH focus in PSHE.

The NSPCC have a useful website where parents can look up Apps and games to find out more about them:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/#guides>

Kind regards
Mrs S Howard
Headteacher