



**Christ Church**  
CE Primary School

Growing and Learning Together in Christ

Head Teacher: Mrs S. Howard

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2024

### Use of WhatsApp and other Social Media

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have been made aware that a number of the children in Oak class have been using social media platforms, particularly WhatsApp, to make groups and communicate. Children have reported the use of inappropriate language, maliciousness comments and swearing used in the groups. There does not appear to be any parental supervision of a number of accounts.

Please be aware of the content your child is accessing on their phones or tablet 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. The privacy settings must be checked carefully and children's use- closely monitored.

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. But issues are often brought into school linked to their use at home and unpleasantness online can impact on pupils' self-esteem and well-being when in school, particularly if a number of pupils are commenting about the same person negatively.

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  
Head Teacher

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