



19th March 2019

Dear parents/carers

As you are aware, the use of social media is common these days and has become second nature to many of us. With this in mind, we wanted to share some advice around WhatsApp that we have been given, which is intended to help safeguard your children.

It has been brought to our attention that there is a Year 5 WhatsApp group, which is followed by a large number of Year 5 children. Although group chats on WhatsApp are useful places to share information, be sociable and organise events, they can also be a place where unkind and unfriendly conversations can take place. We have been informed by a number of children in Year 5 that this is taking place within the group.

We would like to remind you of the guidelines around the use of WhatsApp. The WhatsApp guidelines state:

As of May 2018, WhatsApp's **minimum age of use is 16 years old** if you live in the European Union, or a country that has adopted the GDPR, as the UK has. It was previously 13 and WhatsApp has not yet said what will happen to users between 13 and 16 who already held accounts under the old terms and conditions. By using WhatsApp, a user agrees to provide certain personal information such as their mobile phone number, billing and mobile device information.

We would greatly appreciate that if you choose to allow your child to access social apps, such as WhatsApp, that you talk to your children about their own safe usage and monitor their use regularly.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Miss R Kohli
Executive Headteacher