



St. Jude's Catholic Primary School and Pre-School

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Dear Year 6 Parents/ Carers

It has been brought to my attention that some of the Year 6 children are using WhatsApp inappropriately. Children are making unkind and hurtful comments, not just to each other but about each other's families. Whilst I cannot police what goes on when the children are at home, I do feel that it is important that you are made aware of what is happening and support the school in its efforts to protect your children.

From Spring 2027 the Government have said there will be a ban on children under 16 having access to social media. Children simply do not have the emotional maturity to engage in online chat. They say and do things they regret, and the fallout from this is brought into school the next day and impacts on the children's ability to focus and learn. We constantly remind the children that whatever they write online is on there forever and that they should never write things they wouldn't want to say to someone in person. Children also need a break from one another, and persistent messaging all evening and into the night is disruptive to your children's sleep and impacts significantly on their mental health. My advice to all parents is to delay your children having access to a smartphone for as long as possible. I would strongly encourage parents to take a few minutes to watch this powerful safeguarding video. It serves as a reminder that children need guidance, boundaries and appropriate protections when navigating the online world. As a school, we remain committed to educating children about online safety, but parental support and vigilance remain key in helping children stay safe online.

[Smartphone Free Childhood US - "Let's Change The Norm" - YouTube](#)

I have also included a link to some NSPCC guidance on using WhatsApp to help you talk to your children

[Is WhatsApp safe for my child? | NSPCC](#)

Thank you for your anticipated support with this issue. By working together, we can help ensure that all children feel safe, respected and ready to learn.

Mrs S Wall

Headteacher

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