

Tuesday 9th June 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are being alerted to inappropriate use of social media, specifically WhatsApp messaging, by Year 6 pupils and are receiving concerns from parents on the content which is contained within pupil groups. Teachers are also spending increased amount of time dealing with unkind behaviour that is happening outside of school through online messaging.

Our teachers will aim to continue responsive PSHE (physical, social, health and emotional) sessions in response to certain behaviours as part of weekly learning. This will also include the positive opportunities that social media and online messaging can provide. Please be reminded that mobile phones are not to be used on school grounds and staff will encourage pupils to reduce screen time when travelling to and from school.

If not already, we would encourage regular monitoring of your child's phone use and group chats, should they be in them. Please see information and links to support with appropriate use of WhatsApp below.

Any support needed around the information included, do reach out to your child's class teacher or a member of the safeguarding team.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/social-media/whatsapp/>

<https://www.internetmatters.org/>

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

Yours Sincerely,

HVA Safeguarding Team



WhatsApp safety guide for parents

Internet matters.org

Statistic	Value
WhatsApp's minimum age in the UK	13+
Kids aged 3-17 who use WhatsApp	58%
Kids under 13 who use WhatsApp	37%

5 tips to keep kids safe on WhatsApp

- 1 Review privacy settings** WhatsApp has a range of privacy and security settings to keep users safe. Customise groups, app access, live location and more.
- 2 Customise contacts** Show your child how to report and block unwanted contacts. Then, work with them to add their friends and family. Review and talk about their contacts regularly.
- 3 Talk about personal information** Make sure your child understands what personal information is. Talk about the importance of keeping that information private on WhatsApp.
- 4 Show them where to get support** If something goes wrong or they see something worrying on WhatsApp, make sure they know to come to you, and talk about other sources of support.
- 5 Check in regularly** Once you've done all of the above, check in with them regularly to review settings and how they use WhatsApp.

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