





Monday 21st October 2024

### WhatsApp Groups

### Dear Year 6 parents/carers,

Recently there have been several incidents related to the misuse of WhatsApp. We would like to inform you that these incidents are involving several Year 6 children, being part of group chats in which children are sending inappropriate, and at times, unkind messages and content.

WhatsApp is a chat application which can be used on a mobile phone or tablet. It lets you send messages, images and videos to friends. You can have one to one and group conversations. This letter is to make you aware that your child may be using WhatsApp without your knowledge and you should be mindful that **the minimum age for using WhatsApp is 13 or over** (recently changed in the UK from 16). We encourage you to monitor what your child is viewing and sending. We would also like you to have a conversation with them regarding the appropriate use of group chats. Please remind them to tell you if they receive anything inappropriate and to leave group chats that cause upset.

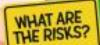
The children's wellbeing is of our upmost priority. If you need further advice, please contact the school. We will send/attach a poster from NationalOnlineSafety.com containing useful information regarding the application, its features and advice for parents/carers.

Thank you for support,

Miss Woods-Booth, Mrs Bell and Mrs Riley

## What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

WhatsApp is the world's most popular messaging service, with around two billion users exchanging texts, photos, videos and documents, as well as making voice and video calls its end-to-end encryption means messages can only be viewed by the sender and any recipients not even WhatsApp can read them. Updates to its privacy policy in 2021 (involving sharing data with parent company facebook) caused millions to leave the app, but the new policy was widely misinterpreted — it only related to WhatsApp; a business features, not to personal messages.



...TYPING...

### SCAMS

### DISAPPEARING MESSAGES

Users can set WhatsApp messages to disappear in 24 hours. 7 days or 90 days by default. Photos and videos can also be instructed to disappear after the recipient has viewed them. These files can't be saved or forwarded – so if your shild was sent an inappropriate message. It would be difficult to prove any wrongdoing. However, the receiver can take a screenshot and save that as wideness.

### ENABLING FAKE NEWS

WhatsApp has unfortunately been linked to accelerating the spread of dangerous rumours. In India in 2018, some outbreaks of mob violence appear to have been sparked by false allegations being shared on the app. WhatsApp itself took steps to prevent its users circulating hazardous theories and speculation in the early weeks of the Court In any termination.



### CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

### LOCATION SHARING

# Advice for Parents & Carers CUCK HERE

### CREATE A SAFE PROFILE

Even though someone would need a child's phone number to add them as a contact, it's also worth altering a young person's profile settings to restrict who can see their photo and status. The options are everyone, "my contacts' and 'nobody' — choosing one of the latter two ensures that, your child's profile is better protected.



### EXPLAIN ABOUT BLOCKING

### REPORT POTENTIAL SCAMS



If your child is in a group chat that is making them feel uncomfortable, or has been added to a group that they don't want to be part of, they can use WhatsApp's group settings to leave. If someone exits a group, the admin can add them back in once; If they leave a second time, it is permanent.

## If your child needs to use the 'live location' function to show you or one of their friends where

THINK ABOUT LOCATION

### DELETE ACCIDENTAL MESSAGES



### Meet Our Expert

Parven Kaur is a social media expert and digital media consultant who is possionate about improving digitall beracy for parents and children. She has extensive experience in the social media arena and is the founder of Kids N Clicks a web resource that helps parents and children thrive in a digital world.













