



'A happy and holy place of learning  
and the centre of a thriving community'

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### Y6 ONLINE SAFETY – CYBERBULLYING AND CONCERNS

Dear Parents and Carers,

Over the last few weeks in school, there have been a few incidents of friendship issues in our Year 6 cohort that have started to raise concerns. Whilst we have tried to deal with this in school as it appears that it is happening at lunchtime and playtimes, it has also been brought to our attention that there have been some extremely unkind things happening involving some of our Year 6 children via social media, or more specifically **WhatsApp**.

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](https://www.gdpr.eu/), as the UK has. This information, along with a Whatsapp guide for parents and carers, can be found at the website:

<https://parentinfo.org/article/whatsapp-a-guide-for-parents-and-carers#:~:text=As%20of%20May%202018%2C%20WhatsApp's,the%20old%20terms%20and%20conditions.>

The school will help children to learn about staying safe online and via social media, but recognises that the primary responsibility for online safety at home lies with parents and carers. Your help is now needed to help your children adopt safe use of the digital technologies at home.

As a school, we cannot intervene with behaviour which occurs outside of school, yet any conflict between parties and such online behaviour (which can result in cyberbullying) can have an impact on peer relations within school. Our growing concern is the impact that such behaviour has on children's self-esteem and mental health. We are therefore asking parents to ensure that you supervise your child's use of electronic equipment at home and talk to your child about appropriate and safe online behaviour.

As the school's Safeguarding Lead and Online Safety Lead, I am available to discuss any concerns regarding online safety.

Yours sincerely,

Catherine Young  
Head teacher

