



Riverside Primary School

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Monday 23rd February 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

Year 6 WhatsApp Groups

I am writing to advise you of current concerns we have regarding some children's use of social media outside of school during evenings and weekends. The content of some groups has been shared with us and we strongly believe that parents should be aware of what is being posted and viewed.

As a school we have noticed an increase in the amount of issues that we are dealing with. Almost daily, we are trying to unravel situations which have happened either via WhatsApp or been exacerbated by comments on a Whatsapp group. As a direct result, some children are missing vital learning in lessons because we are having to spend an increasing amount of school time addressing these issues.

Such apps are extremely difficult for children of this age, who are still young and developing their social skills. This is one of the reasons why the developers of the apps set requirements. For example, the age requirement for WhatsApp is 13 years+. With WhatsApp, pictures, voice notes and videos can be sent. Once this has been done, the sender no longer has control over that content and it can be continually shared and passed on.

If you do allow your child to access social media, we ask for your vigilance. Just like their interactions in person, online interactions require supervision and support. What is right will vary from family to family but some strategies that are known to be successful include:

Monitoring their phones for the apps that are downloaded

- Enacting parental controls on phones and consoles
- Reviewing the messages they send on platforms and apps – making monitoring part of a daily or weekly routine
- Setting expectations about what space (preferably communal) and times they have access to devices
- Encouraging them to share or discuss with you what they are doing.

Therefore, please can I ask for your support and partnership over this weekend in revising your child's online usage, checking the nature of group chats, including your own child's involvement, and providing support to your child around their use of WhatsApp.

As a school, we will continue to provide support from our Computing and Citizenship lessons as well as 1:1 conversations and teaching opportunities as they arise.

Thank you for your continued support

Yours sincerely

Mrs Smith
Headteacher

