

Wendover Church of England Junior School

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Dear Parents/Carers

USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

We strive to ensure that children understand how to keep themselves safe online and the importance of behaving respectfully towards each other. We have provided numerous opportunities this year for children to learn about e-safety and have written to parents asking for their support and providing guidance.

However, it seems that there is still a small group of children who are being allowed to post inappropriate comments on WhatsApp. You may not be aware, but the minimum age for users of this app is 16 and is 13 for many other social media apps. You may also be unaware that a number of parents are regularly checking the content of conversations, reading the inappropriate comments. I am sure you will agree that this does not reflect well on those children making the comments, their parents or the school.

We have acknowledged that we cannot police the use of social media – this is the responsibility of the parent. However, we will be reviewing our policy and procedure for dealing with such concerns and this may include the intervention of outside agencies to work with children and parents. In the meantime, I implore parents to support their child and consider the following:

- Check the age restrictions of any app or game before allowing your child to have an account
- Regularly monitor their conversations (including texts, emails and online activity)
- Talk to them about the dangers/possible consequence of posting inappropriate comments online
- Block any user who has made inappropriate comments and report them using the tools provided by the app
- Delete your child from any group that is using inappropriate language or terms
- Bar your child from using their device if they cannot use it respectfully

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

GARETH MIRAMS
Headteacher

Respect

Reflection

Responsibility

Resilience