



St Mary & St Pancras C. E. Primary School

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Headteacher **Jules Belton**, Deputy Headteacher: **Lucy Heard**
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Thursday 5th February 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Mobile Phones and Social Media

As you will be aware, we work very hard at school to ensure the children have a thorough understanding of how to stay safe online, including mobile phone usage. Through regular discussions across the curriculum, bespoke e-safety lessons and assemblies, children are taught to understand the potential dangers online alongside strategies to support them in managing any issues they encounter.

We have been made aware of a number of group chats through WhatsApp and iMessage recently which have resulted in unkind remarks, inappropriate language being used, and contributions from children who do not attend this school. As you will understand, messages of an unkind nature can quickly spiral out of control and cause a great deal of upset.

WhatsApp is a chat application that 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 this service is 16 or over.

We ask that you carefully monitor your child's online activity, including their use of messaging services. Remind them that they must tell you if they receive anything inappropriate from any application.



If your child is the victim of inappropriate use and you feel they are at risk of harm or criminal activity then we recommend that you as a parent/carer report the matter to police. Staff are not able to address such issues that happen outside of the school day. However, to support you and your child/ren, we will:

- Continue to teach the children how to use digital technologies safely through lessons across the curriculum, assemblies and workshops;
- Continue to monitor the use of any form of technology in school hours;
- Keep you updated with e-safety alerts through our Newsletter.

If you would like to know more about how to keep your child safe online, the following websites will be useful:

Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP)
www.ceop.police.uk

Kidsmart
www.kidsmart.org.uk

Think U Know
www.thinkuknow.co.uk

CBBC Stay Safe
www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/topics/stay-safe

Childnet
www.childnet-int.org

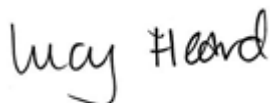
NSPCC
<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

Internet Watch Foundation
www.iwf.org.uk

Internet Matters
www.internetmatters.org

Thank you for your support in this matter.

Best wishes,



Lucy Heard
Deputy Headteacher