



St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

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Dear Parents,

Many of you are members of WhatsApp or other social media groups that provide a connection with parents in a particular class. Ideally, the group chats are useful places to share information and reminders about school events as well as sharing parenting advice. Most of the time, these group chats can be a great resource and an enjoyable way to communicate. But, as with many things in life, there are those unfortunate times where someone in the group may say something inappropriate. In order to prevent any miscommunications, here are some guidelines we would appreciate you adhere to within our St Bernadette's community.

- If you have a query or concern about the teacher please have a chat with them directly. If you feel your concern has not been addressed then please come and have a chat with either of us.
- When writing, remember that whatever you say on social media may be forwarded to someone else and in a few minutes it may be seen by many members of the school.

Another issue we would like to address, is the ever increasing chats on WhatsApp that are particularly used within Year 5 and Year 6, however, this may also involve children in other year groups. It has been brought to our attention that some children are writing mean and inappropriate messages about their peers within the chats. Although, as a school, we know parents are addressing these issues, within their home environment, the fallouts from these conversations are being brought into school. As a result, we are spending much time investigating these situations and precious teaching time is being lost.

Please can we ask you to consider:

- Is your child part of a group WhatsApp chat?
- Are you aware of any inappropriate messaging between these chats?
- Is your child at an appropriate age to be using these group chats?

We have attached a WhatsApp parents and carers guide for your attention. If you have any concerns, please come and have a chat with us.

Yours sincerely,

Karen Pearson Alexis Satterthwaite

Alexis Satterthwaite

Karen Pearson

Acting Headteachers

