



St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

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Dear Parents/Carers

I wanted to highlight a problem that that may affect more children than we know. Some of our children use WhatsApp.

WhatsApp is a chat application which can be used on a mobile phone or tablet; it lets you send messages, images and videos to friends and enables one to one and group conversations. You may not know that the minimum age for WhatsApp is 16. If your child has this App, we suggest that you carefully monitor what your child is viewing online, and that they are reminded that they must tell you if they receive anything inappropriate from any application. As a school, we take safeguarding seriously and this includes online safety.

Throughout the school, the children have had age-appropriate lessons about how to stay safe online, the reasons for age restrictions on various platforms and what steps to take if they feel unsafe online. In KS2 specifically, they have also been taught about the effects of cyberbullying, of posting inappropriate content/ language online and the potential consequences that could occur should they choose to do so. This supplements the P.S.H.E. and computing lessons that take place in each year group.

Whenever incidents regarding online behaviour occur, they cause a great deal of anxiety and upset for those involved. Please see the link below which takes you to a guide for parents that you might find helpful. Our website also has information regarding on-line safety which you can go to.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/whatsapp-safety-a-how-to-guide-for-parents/>

Please be vigilant about your child's use of mobile technology and keep your children safe. Children are, quite naturally, naïve. We as adults must not be.

Please ask yourselves these questions: Are you confident that you know the answers to these questions?

- Does your child have access to WhatsApp?
- Do you know what they are accessing online and who they are messaging/talking to?
- Are they allowed to have their mobile phones in their rooms?
- How do you manage mobile devices at home?
- Do you have a technology curfew?
- When did you last have a conversation with your child about online behaviour and safety?

Head Teacher: Mrs Alexis Satterthwaite



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This advice is not meant to be condescending, but it is our duty to make sure that our children are not left vulnerable within these situations. We advise that parents take control of what children are doing online at home in order to avoid harm. If you need further advice, please contact the school so that we can help.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely,

A Satterthwaite

Mrs Satterthwaite
Head Teacher