



## **Principal: Mr Stuart Mallott**

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Tuesday 13th February 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope this message finds you well. We would like to draw your attention to the increasing use of social media platforms such as WhatsApp and Snapchat among our primary school children. While these applications can be a great way for older children and adults to stay connected, it's essential for us as parents and educators to be vigilant about access, usage and the potential risks associated with them.

WhatsApp is a popular chat application that allows users to send messages, images, and videos to friends. It also supports one-to-one as well as group conversations. On the other hand, Snapchat is known for its photo and video-sharing features, including the Snap Map, which allows users to share their location with friends.

We have been informed of instances where these platforms have been misused, leading to unkind behaviour and inappropriate content being shared among pupils. This not only goes against our values we uphold at Warboys Primary, but it also has the potential to cause distress and harm to the children involved.

As a result, we strongly advise you to discuss this with your child/ren and carefully consider removing access to WhatsApp (age restriction 16+) and other social media services from their device/s, for the good of their safety and mental well-being.

It's important to remind them about the responsible use of these platforms and to encourage open communication with you regarding their online interactions. Additionally, we recommend considering the following measures to ensure their safety:

- Setting Boundaries: Establish clear guidelines for when and how long your child can use any applications.
- Privacy Settings: Familiarise yourself with the privacy settings of these apps and consider adjusting/removing them to enhance your child's safety.
- Open Communication: Encourage your child to share any concerns or experiences they have while using apps and platforms.

We understand that navigating the digital landscape can be challenging, but by working together, we can help our children make the most of these technologies while staying safe and respectful online.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any further questions or need additional guidance, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

Kind regards,

Mr Mallott

Principal

