



ST LUKE'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND VOLUNTARY AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOL

Tuesday 15th February 2022

Dear Parents/Carers of Y6 pupils: **Use of What's App/Online Gaming**

I am writing to you because of increasing concerns regarding the misuse of social networking sites amongst some of our children, most recently on sites such as **Whats App**. Although these chats are taking place online after school or during the weekend, we have been approached by several parents as they are concerned at what is being discussed on these group chats and also, the language which is being used.

In addition, although these chats are taking place out of school, they are still having an impact within school. Teachers time is increasingly being taken up with dealing with issues relating to what has been said on Whats App 'group chats' or online gaming. This is obviously having an impact on the teaching and learning of Y6.

As a school, we always teach and encourage our children to interact with each other appropriately and with respect, both inside and outside of school hours. We are continually reminding the children about how they use social media and the internet, and particularly to stop and think before they post or share something on the internet – about the potential impact for others and for themselves of what they might write in haste or on the spur of the moment. It is with this in mind, that I am considering contacting Online Learning Behaviours, a company who we work with, to ask them to come into school and speak to the children and also, why I am writing to you to ask for your help and support, as parents, in tackling this issue.

As a parent, can you please think about the sites your child is accessing and even consider not allowing them to use certain social networking sites. In the event that you do allow them to use certain sites, can I please urge you to have a conversation with them about appropriate use and ensure that you supervise their activities online. Make sure that you are aware of what of your children are writing on these groups as some of the language that we have been informed of is offensive and not acceptable for 10 and 11 year olds to be using.

I seriously hope that you will support us with this issue; please do not hesitate to contact school if you have any concerns. I hope that by working together, we will be able to combat this issue and 'get on' with teaching your children.

Thank you for your continued support,

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Headteacher

Mrs E Parkes
KS2b Phase Leader

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