

Ashbourne Primary School

Headteacher: Paula Chisholm

Co-Headteacher: Heather Davis

Chair of Governors: Ashley Tabony



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Dear Parent,

Dear Parents/Carers,

Children's Use of WhatsApp

We are increasingly concerned about the inappropriate use of WhatsApp among our pupils. It has come to our attention that groups are being created where children are using inappropriate language and engaging in conversations unsuitable for their age. These online interactions are leading to conflicts between pupils, which then carry over into school, affecting friendships, well-being and behaviour.

We remind parents that **WhatsApp has a minimum age requirement of 13 years**, meaning primary school children should not be using the platform. Young children do not yet have the maturity to navigate online interactions safely, and unsupervised access can expose them to harmful content and inappropriate conversations.

How Parents Can Support Their Child Online

To help keep your child safe online, we ask parents to:

- **Monitor your child's device** to check which apps they are using and ensure they are age appropriate.
- **Use parental controls** to restrict access to inappropriate content and social media platforms not intended for their age group.
- **Have open conversations** about online safety, including appropriate behaviour and what to do if they encounter something upsetting.
- **Encourage healthy screen time habits**, ensuring a balanced use of technology alongside offline activities.

Safeguarding and Online Safety

As a school, safeguarding our pupils is our top priority, and online safety is a crucial part of this. We teach children how to use the internet responsibly, but we need your support in reinforcing these messages at home. If your child is using WhatsApp, we strongly urge you to reconsider and ensure that their digital interactions are safe, appropriate and in line with age restrictions.

Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our children safe online.

Yours sincerely,

Paula Chisholm and Heather Davis

Headteachers