

Safeguarding Newsletter

Keeping children safe is our top priority



When did you last
check your child's
mobile phone?



Do you know who they are messaging, and how?

Would you know if anyone was sending unkind messages to your child?

Would you know if your child was sending hurtful or inappropriate messages to another child or in a group chat?

If your answer to any of these questions is no, it is vital that you read this newsletter.

We know how important technology is to our lives. Most of us use our phones every day and for lots of different purposes. We know that many of our pupils have phones, and we also know that many are active on social media apps like Whatsapp and Instagram, which have a minimum age restriction of 13.

BUT, we are finding that so many of the friendship issues that children are dealing with in school at the moment are a direct result of problems they have had with friends in chat groups or unkind messages they have received from their friends.

We have seen the content of some of these messages, which include really hurtful comments and often really inappropriate language. We have had several situations recently where children do not want to come to school because of things that have happened out of school.

We are educating all children in school about online safety, how to behave appropriately online and how to be a good friend.

As their parents, we are asking you to support us with this at home too. PTO >

What you can do:

Look through pictures, messages etc. on your child's phone regularly and have conversations about any inappropriate content.

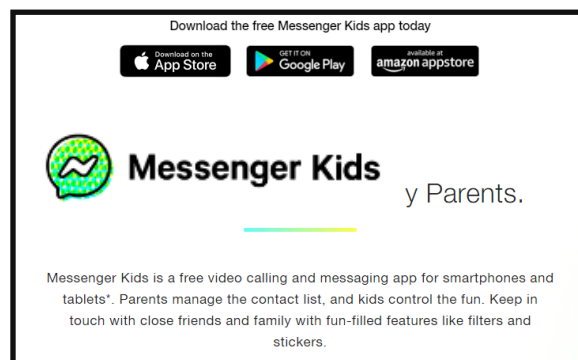
Make sure your child does not have access to their phone/tablet in their bedroom, or set timers so they can't use it beyond a certain time at night.

Block contacts from being able to message your child if you are concerned about what they are saying.

Consider downloading messaging apps designed specifically for children, e.g. Messenger Kids

There are other social media and chat apps which are safe for children to use, follow this link to find out more:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/social-media-networks-made-for-kids/>



What your child can do:

Think before sending every message.

Ask yourself these questions:

Would I say this to the person if they were standing right next to me?

Would I be happy for my parent to read what I am sending?



What we as a school will do:

If we are shown inappropriate, hurtful or abusive messages that your child has sent to another child via Whatsapp, Snapchat, or any other app which they are not old enough to be registered with, we will contact you.

We will ask that you manage this at home, as their parent, either by taking the phone away, managing settings, deleting apps or shutting down their account.

If you cannot do this, we will consider reporting to the app administrators who will shut down the account.