



# Andrews' Endowed Church of England Primary School

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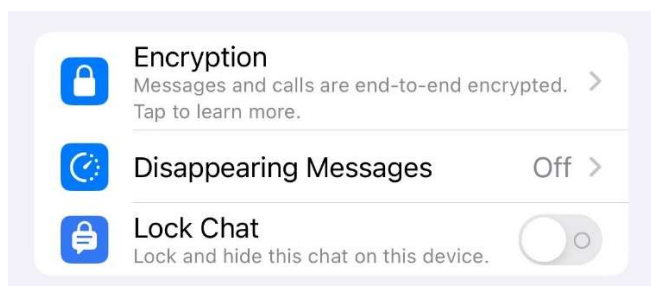
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Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2024

## Social media use within Year 6

We are writing to advise you of a few concerns that we have regarding children's use of social media outside of school during evenings and weekends.

We understand that there has recently been issues regarding the use of WhatsApp. We have heard from parents and children that there are some groups within WhatsApp with particularly derogatory language on a range of subjects and about a range of individuals, including groups with children who have left Andrews' and are in older year groups. This clearly is upsetting to some pupils within school and is not in line with our ethos or values. It is important to note that once someone has another person's phone number, they can add that phone number to any of the groups they are part of. There are also settings where these derogatory messages will delete themselves after a period of time, sometimes to try and hide these types of messages.



As we are sure you are aware, WhatsApp is for children 16 years and over. Please find the link explaining this on their website here: <https://faq.whatsapp.com/695318248185629> If you do allow your child to access social media including WhatsApp, we continue to ask for your vigilance. Just like their interactions in person, online interactions require supervision and support. What is right will vary from family to family but some strategies that are known to be successful include:

- Monitoring their phones for the apps that are downloaded.
- Enacting parental controls on phones, tablets and consoles.
- Reviewing the messages they send on platforms and apps – making monitoring part of a daily or weekly routine (keeping in mind 'disappearing' messages).
- Setting expectations about what space (preferably communal) and times they have access to devices.
- Encouraging them to share or discuss with you what they are doing.

As this is happening outside school, we are asking for your partnership in dealing with this. As a school we are responding to this with additional teaching during Computing, Citizenship and Wellbeing lessons and in 1:1 conversations and teaching opportunities as they arise.



Below are some further links to parental resources in keeping safe online with images.

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/Has-your-child-shared-a-picture-or-video-online-/>

<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/research-resources/briefings/photography-sharing-images-guidance>

<https://www.vodafone.co.uk/newscentre/features/social-media-and-parental-controls-everything-you-need-to-know/>

Yours sincerely

Mr Sam Paine