

Hawthorn Community Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been brought to our attention that a number of children are continuing to participate in WhatsApp groups, despite reminders about the platform's minimum age requirement of 13 and the importance of online safety. We have also become aware of instances where children have taken images from school social media and shared them via WhatsApp without the consent of those involved.

We would like to remind families that WhatsApp is intended for users aged 13 and over. Children using the platform before this age may be exposed to risks that they are not yet equipped to manage. In addition, sharing images of others without their permission is a serious concern and does not reflect the respectful and responsible behaviour we encourage in our school community.

Keeping children safe online is a shared responsibility between home and school, and we would greatly appreciate your support in reinforcing these important messages with your child.

We kindly ask that you take this opportunity to review your child's use of messaging platforms, ensuring that any apps they access are age-appropriate and that they understand the importance of using technology safely, responsibly, and respectfully.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation in helping us maintain a safe, respectful, and positive environment for all children.

Yours sincerely,

Jayne Tinto

Deputy Headteacher