

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: WhatsApp and Social Media Concerns

As a school we are finding that issues relating to the unmonitored use of WhatsApp and other social media apps on pupils' phones are becoming a significant concern and our pupils are not applying the key learning from their Computing and PSHE lessons and our recent online safety day.

Can we politely ask that you monitor your child's interactions and comments online to ensure that they are kept safe and do not engage in inappropriate behaviour when using their devices and platforms outside of school hours.

Below are some guidelines to follow as a parent/carer:

- Ensure that you have all the passwords to your child's phone and that you check through their phones regularly.
- Change the time you look at their phone so that they do not have any opportunity to remove content as they know its content will be reviewed.
- Do not allow access to phones and other devices in bedrooms once it is time for them to go to bed.
- Talk to your child regularly about the dangers of social media and how important it is that they only ever are in groups where they know everyone involved.
- Encourage them to tell you when they see things that they know are inappropriate or concerns them, even if it means sharing information about a friend or classmate.
- Whilst children have a right to privacy, you have the ultimate responsibility to safeguard your child from harm. If your child is reluctant to share their device with you, seek support and remove their access to it.

Further advice on WhatsApp use and other social media can be found on this [link](#) (Internet Matters.org) or you can contact me using cdaw@allenbournmiddle.org

Yours faithfully,

Mr Chris Daw – Online Safety Champion