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Friday 17th July 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Subject: Online Safety and the Use of WhatsApp

We want our children to be safe and happy both online and in school. On-line abuse can occur between pupils but also when pupils are contacted by people that they don't know.. In most cases, these issues start in group chats on the WhatsApp messaging app outside of school hours.

The Risks of WhatsApp

- **Age Limits:** The minimum age requirement for using WhatsApp is 13 years old. Primary school children do not yet have the maturity to navigate these online interactions safely.
- **Cyberbullying:** It is easy for children to be left out, removed from group chats, or subjected to unkind messages, which causes emotional distress.
- **Inappropriate Content:** Children can be added to chats by strangers or older children, exposing them to inappropriate language, images, and videos.
- **Lack of Context:** Text messages do not show tone of voice. This leads to frequent misunderstandings and arguments.

How You Can Help

As your children grow up with technology, your guidance is the best way to keep them safe. We strongly encourage you to:

1. **Check the Age Limit:** Ensure your child is old enough to use the app and that you have given permission.
2. **Monitor Messages:** Regularly check your child's phone and read through their messages and group chats.
3. **Review Privacy Settings:** Adjust the app's privacy settings so only "My Contacts" can add your child to group chats.
4. **Talk Openly:** Have regular conversations with your child about the impact of their words online and encourage them to tell you if they feel uncomfortable.

For more tips on how to talk to your child about staying safe on this app, please visit the [Bitdefender Online Safety Guide](#) or check the [National Online Safety Hub](#) for step-by-step guides on parental controls.

Thank you for your continued support in keeping our children safe.

Yours sincerely,
Mr. Hawkins