



29.03.2023



### WhatsApp Groups

Dear Year 5 Parent / Carer,

I am writing to parents and carers of all Year 5 children to make you aware that a significant number of the year group are using WhatsApp to message each other outside of school. It has been brought to our attention that within these groups the children have extensive chats relating to the following:

- Bullying: several WhatsApp groups are named, 'We hate \_\_\_\_' and multiple children are commenting their opinions of the child named and adding other children from the year group;
- Homophobia and use of homophobic language;
- Sexualised comments and drawings added to photos;
- Swearing and use of derogatory language.
- Threatening voice notes.

The age limit for WhatsApp usage is 13+.

These inappropriate chats are also being discussed in school and beginning to cause disruption to teaching and learning as well as impacting on playtimes and lunchtimes. I would be very grateful with your support in checking your child's phones to ensure they are using age-appropriate sites and consider if your child is ready for using a mobile phone which allows access to these types of apps.

Whilst we are aware that not all the children in Year 5 have a mobile phone or have experienced these chats, the groups were extensive and students were repeatedly adding and forwarding negative messages about each other. We believe that as parents and carers, you would want to know about this so that you can continue to support your children.

Yours sincerely,

Claire Buckley  
Deputy Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead

**IF YOU REQUIRE ANY LETTERS TRANSLATING, PLEASE CONTACT THE SCHOOL**

Poplar Farm Primary School, Helmsley Road, Grantham, NG31 8XF. Telephone 01476 850680

[enquiries@poplarfarmsch-cit.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@poplarfarmsch-cit.co.uk)

[www.poplarfarmsch-cit.co.uk/website](http://www.poplarfarmsch-cit.co.uk/website)