

Swinderby All Saints Church of England Primary School

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Head teacher: Zoë Longstaff B Ed (Hons) NPQH



Wednesday 26 January 2022

Dear Parents,

Over the last few weeks, it has come to my attention that some older children in Years 5 and 6 have been accessing inappropriate content on the internet and using offensive and sometimes homophobic language online. This is taking place out of school hours but issues caused by it are causing upset and concern in school.

Whilst some children are playing online games sensibly and with parents aware, others are using these platforms in an abusive way. Some children have set up 'WhatsApp' groups, which again, instead of being used for the core purpose of messaging others, are using the app to send abusive messages, videos and a means of leaving other children out. This will not be tolerated in school. I would remind you that this is bullying and school will not tolerate this. Neither will school accept swearing nor homophobic comments made.

There are age limits set on these app's for a reason – WhatsApp has an age limit of 16 (<https://faq.whatsapp.com/general/security-and-privacy/minimum-age-to-use-whatsapp/?lang=en>). I would strongly urge you to check any devices your child uses and to manage their content. In addition, children should not be 'gaming' or 'online' behind closed doors or late at night. The way children can now access inappropriate and often dangerous content is fast moving and often leaves adults unaware.

I understand that this letter is centrally around home use of the internet and affects a minority of pupils but the upset this has caused within school leaves me no choice but to write to you. If this continues, I will have to consider safeguarding as a concern for the children involved.

If you need any advice on keeping children safe online, please feel free to contact me or refer to our E-safety links on our website: https://www.swinderbyallsaints.co.uk/parents/e_safety/e_safety.html

Yours sincerely,
Zoe Longstaff
Headteacher

Truthfulness, Compassion, Forgiveness, Respect

