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WHATSAPP SAFEGUARDING CONCERNS

Dear Parent/carer,

Recently there have been several incidents related to the misuse of WhatsApp groups. **We would like to remind parents and children that the minimum age for using WhatsApp is 16 or over**, and this was changed in 2021 in response to data-protection legislation.

WhatsApp is a chat application which can be used on a mobile phone or tablet, it lets you send messages, images and videos to friends. You can have one to one and group conversations.

We urge all parents to keep an eye on their child's mobile phone or online activities involving social media. The children are constantly reminded that they must tell a parent / adult if they receive anything inappropriate from any application when discussing online safety in school and through PSHE discussions. As a school, we are committed to keeping our children safe and appreciate your support.

Although it is ultimately a parental decision, as a school we do not promote the use of such apps or groups, and we strongly advise you to remove the chat groups involving other children as this can cause issues in and outside of school.

If you need any advice about social media or have concerns about your child's online profiles, please get in contact with myself or Mrs Maskell.

Kindest Regards,
Mrs Murray

Headteacher Elizabeth Maskell
B.Ed (Hons), N.P.Q.H.