



Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School and Nursery
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Tuesday 29th April 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to address a matter that has come to our attention concerning the use of WhatsApp among pupils in Years 5 and 6. It has been noted that some students are engaging in unkind exchanges using this platform, which is regrettably leading to disruptions during school hours as teachers are compelled to address and mediate these issues.

In our commitment to fostering a positive and supportive learning environment, we would like to remind parents of the age recommendations associated with WhatsApp. According to the app's guidelines, children must be at least 13 years old to create an account. Despite this recommendation, we understand that some pupils may be using the application, often without parental guidance or supervision.

To aid in your discussions at home regarding online behaviour, we have attached a set of guidelines that includes information on safe social media usage, plus strategies for encouraging respectful communication. We believe it is essential for parents to be aware of the potential implications associated with unsupervised access to online platforms.

As a school, we recommend that children refrain from using WhatsApp at this stage in their development. We believe that limiting access to such applications will help to mitigate negative interactions and ensure a more positive and conducive learning environment for all our students.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We appreciate your support in reinforcing positive online behaviours at home. Should you have any questions or wish to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs E Crabb

Deputy Headteacher

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