



Learning Together for Life

Executive Head Teacher: Andrew Smith B.Ed (Hons), M.Sc, NPQH
Head of School: Nichola Allerston BA (Hons) (QTS), NPQH

Market Rasen Church of England Primary School (VC)

Mill Road, Market Rasen, Lincolnshire, LN8 3BL

T: 01673 842395 E: enquiries@marketrasen.lincs.sch.uk

www.marketrasen.lincs.sch.uk @northwoldsfederation

Thursday 21st March 2024

Concerns Regarding Use Of Group Chats Outside Of School

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to all Year 5 and 6 parents and carers with a matter that is causing us concern; children entering into group chats with their classmates out of school.

As you might be aware the age restrictions for most popular group chat apps (for example WhatsApp) is 13+ and this is because many children under this age do not have the maturity to be able to navigate this method of communication in a positive way.

What appears to happen is that innocuous chats quickly descend into unpleasantness which spills over into real life and issues from home are brought into school. This leads to upset, absence from school and lost learning as teachers deal with issues that have arisen outside of school. It is most certainly the responsibility of the school to educate children regarding e-safety however it is parents' responsibility to ensure their children are using appropriate technology in a positive way.

I would urge you to follow the age restrictions on apps to keep your children safe. Information about these age restrictions can be found below.

If you do allow your child to use apps that are not designed for their age, I would urge you to regularly monitor their usage to avoid the issues described above. I would also ask you to reinforce the message regarding their digital footprint; what they do online could be there forever.

Here are some links regarding the matter above:

[Internet Matters](#)

[WhatsApp-A Safety Guide for Parents](#)

If you would like any further advice or guidance about online safety please get in touch.

Thank you for your support in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Smith
Executive Headteacher

Our Christian Values: Caring Honesty Commitment to Achieve Fairness Co-operation Respect

