



# Ashley Junior School

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Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> October 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

**Re: WhatsApp Chats – Year 5 and 6 issues**

It has come to our attention, once again, that many of our Year 5 and 6 children are using WhatsApp for group chats outside of school.

Please note that:

- **the minimum recommended age for using WhatsApp is 13 years old. All AJS pupils are deemed too young to appropriately manage this form of communication;**
- the app offers end-to-end encryption, which means that messages can only be read by the sender and the recipient in one-to-one chats, or all members if it is a group chat. Not even WhatsApp can read them.

We have been made aware that participants on these group chats have clearly demonstrated they are not emotionally mature enough to use social media like WhatsApp; the chat group 'admins' have also invited much older pupils to join in with conversations, some of which have contained hundreds of messages in volume on any one day.

*If you choose to give your child access to a mobile device, it is your responsibility to monitor their use of apps, not our school staff. We will not be held responsible for managing the actions and consequences of children's inappropriate use of personal mobile devices outside of school, but fully acknowledge that these issues can have a very damaging social and emotional impact on pupils when they are in school. We suggest that parents make contact with one another to manage issues that occur that are of concern, in order to reach a resolution.*

We recommend that you:

- discuss the appropriate use of social media with your child;
- if you choose to allow your child access to above-age apps, regularly check your child's use of social media to ensure they are participating respectfully;
- explain to your child how to block people and leave a group, and how to respond to inappropriate comments or content;
- read the information guide about WhatsApp, from one of our monthly Online Safety Newsletters: [www.ashleyjuniorschool.co.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=736&type=pdf](http://www.ashleyjuniorschool.co.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=736&type=pdf)

Thank you for your help with these matters.

Kind regards.

*CBartolomeo*

Charlie Bartolomeo

Headteacher and DSL