



Ashley Junior School

Ready • Respectful • Responsible

Thursday, 11th June 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

SAFEGUARDING: WhatsApp Chats – Year 5 issues

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

We have been made aware that the contents of some of these chats are highly obtrusive, by way of the vast number of messages that are being added and sent every day, and hurtful, by way of the nature of message content.

Please note that:

1. 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;
2. 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 recommend that you:

- Read the information guide about WhatsApp, from one of our monthly Online Safety Newsletters: www.ashleyjuniorschool.co.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=1272&type=pdf;
- Report any disturbing WhatsApp chat content directly to the police;
- 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;

Thank you for your help with these matters.

Kind regards.

CBartolomeo

Charlie Bartolomeo

Headteacher and DSL