



Date: 7 Nov 2022



Dear year 6 Parents and Guardians,

We have been made aware from several parents of behaviour concerns regarding a WhatsApp group initiated by students in year 6.

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. This letter is to make you aware that your child may be using WhatsApp without your knowledge and you should be mindful that the minimum age for WhatsApp is 13 or over. If you feel that your child needs to have WhatsApp, we would strongly suggest that you closely monitor the chats that your child is involved in.

'There are several reasons why the minimum age for WhatsApp is 13, one of which is that you cannot always control if you're added to a group chat, or choose what you receive from others. For more information on WhatsApp, I recommend this website written specifically for parents: <https://parentzone.org.uk/article/whatsapp>'

Along with this message to our parent community, our teachers will also be speaking with the students regarding their use of Whatsapp and their use of social media, ensuring that they are also aware of the current guidelines, restrictions and potential issues surrounding this chat application. Through our Relationships Education and Sexuality curriculum we will reinforce the key ideas around safety, both in the physical and online environment. We have





also been working with our PTA in securing an expert who will be hosting a webinar for interested parents around digital safety. Dates are yet to be determined.

Additionally you might want to take a look at [Common Sense Media](#) for parents as it is an excellent resource to support parents to know what to do in today's fast changing world. This is how they have reviewed the [Whatsapp](#) Messenger App.

If you see something that concerns you regarding your child's online interactions with other KJS students, then please do the following;

- Take a screenshot
- Share with us so that we can work together to support student wellbeing

Kind regards,

Mrs. Doucette and Mr. Fay

