



# West Green Primary School

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Headteacher: Mr A Hodgson BA (Hons)PGCE

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6<sup>th</sup> April 2022

Dear Parents and Carers of Year 6 children,

**Re: Social Media**

We are writing to you to say how concerned we are about some children's use of social media.

Most sites and apps that offer some sort of messaging or communication have an age limit policy of 13+ to comply with the law in the USA. This includes Snapchat, Instagram, TikTok, Facebook and others. In the UK, WhatsApp has a 16+ rule in line with GDPR which came into effect in 2018. This means that children of primary school age should not be using any of these services.

These rules are intended to protect children from risk from inappropriate content, grooming and paedophilia. The school has been made aware of cases in Crawley where children have had inappropriate contact from adults online which they hid from their parents and which led to unsafe behaviour. It can and does happen.

On the positive side, we are aware that in the digital world we live in, children use these communication channels to stay in touch, and this has become increasingly important to them recently.

However, we have had a rising number of incidents in school where children are talking about school or featuring school related content in their posts in a negative way. This is unacceptable.

Going forward we will report any accounts where we become aware of inappropriate conduct to the relevant platform in order to have it deleted. Unfortunately we do not have the capacity to do this for all underage accounts operated by pupils.

Furthermore we strongly encourage parents and carers to take responsibility for their children's social media use and take the following actions:

- Talk to your children about appropriate use of technology and reinforce the messages we give in school.

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- Strongly consider deleting all underage accounts for social media activities. Set up logins they need (e.g. for gaming) using family e-mail addresses.
- Where you choose to take responsibility for allowing children to continue with these accounts, monitor their use thoroughly.

Follow this link to The UK Safer Internet Centre's advice to parents when setting up accounts for children to use.

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/blog/key-things-to-remember-when-helping-your-child-set-up-a-new-profile>

If you have any queries, please contact the school office.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A. Hodgson" followed by a long, sweeping horizontal flourish.

Mr A Hodgson  
**Headteacher**