



St John with St Michael CE Primary School

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'Living in the LIGHT of Christ'
'I am the Light' John 8:12



Tuesday 3rd May 2022



Dear Parents/Carers,

It has recently been brought to my attention that several children in school have been using their mobile phones inappropriately. Some pupils are in chat groups on WhatsApp with their class peers or Snap Chat. It has been reported to me that several abusive messages have been sent from a number of children to each other.

It has also been brought to my attention that a number of pupils are being negatively influenced by apps such as Tik Tok, resulting in inappropriate language and inappropriate gestures such as knife gestures or remarks. I have also been informed that there is an App called Omegle, which enables the user to talk to strangers. This is obviously an incredibly dangerous app for children to be accessing, as it could be used as a vehicle to groom/abuse children.

What is school doing about this:

We will deliver a bespoke PSHE lesson to deal with the issue of cyber bullying and online abuse. We will also remind children about the dangers of the internet and apps. This is in addition to what we already cover as part of our PSHE curriculum, however, due to the nature of this issue, I feel it's important to deal with this matter urgently, rather than wait for the curriculum to cover the concept.

What can you do at home:

Please talk to your child about the appropriate use of a mobile phone if they have one. Please check to see which apps they are accessing to ensure they are safe. Many apps are designed for teenagers, minimum age 13, and are not appropriate for primary aged children. We would therefore recommend that you delete any apps that your child should not be accessing, this include Tik Tok, Snap Chat etc.

We also recommend that you ensure your child removes themselves/ deletes any group chats on Whats App. We also recommend that pupils block anyone from communicating with them online if they say anything unkind after they have reported it to a trusted adult. As Headteacher, I will do everything in my power to protect our pupils from any form of abuse, and this will include following the procedures/ graduated approach of our school's behaviour policy.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Rooney

Headteacher

