

# St Francis Roman Catholic Primary School

"With God, everything is within our reach"



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Dear Parents and Carers,

We would like to take this opportunity to remind families of a few important points that help keep children safe online:

- **Age restrictions:** WhatsApp, along with most social media and messaging platforms, has a minimum age requirement of **13**. Please see the poster below.
- **Open communication:** Please maintain regular conversations with your child about how they use apps, who they are talking to, and how they feel about their online interactions. Children are far more likely to share concerns when these discussions are normalised at home.
- **Regular phone checks:** We strongly encourage parents and carers to check their child's phone routinely. This is not about invading privacy but about ensuring they are safe, supported, and behaving appropriately in online spaces.
- **Online behaviour and kindness:** It is important to reinforce with children that their online persona should reflect the same kindness and respect expected in person. A simple rule to share with them is: *if you wouldn't say it face-to-face, don't say it online*. Messages can easily be misinterpreted, and unkind comments can have a significant impact.

Our aim is to work together to help pupils develop healthy, respectful and safe online habits as they prepare for the transition to secondary school. If you have any concerns or would like further advice, please feel free to contact us. Thank you for your continued support.

Below are some links which offer further guidance and support:

[Government to drive action to improve children's relationship with mobile phones and social media - GOV.UK](#)

[Keeping children safe online: advice for parents and carers | Barnardo's](#)

[Parents and Carers - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)

[Children, phones and online safety | NSPCC](#)

Kind regards,  
Miss L Deighan

