

Holy Trinity Church of England Junior School

Bute Road, Wallington, Surrey, SM6 8BZ

Telephone: 020 8647 7496

Email: office@holytrinityjuniorwallington.com

www.holytrinityjuniorwallington.com

Headteacher: Mrs S Gruffydd



Exemplary education for all, through God's amazing grace

Learning, Integrity, Dignity, Love, Confidence.

Learning together, as we journey with God in **Love**, we act with **Integrity**, treat others with **Dignity** and grow in **Confidence**.

20th February 2023

Dear Parents,

Re: Online Safety

Holy Trinity is committed to promoting the safe and responsible use of the internet and as such, we feel it is our responsibility to raise this particular issue as a growing concern, due to the increase in inappropriate use of WhatsApp.

WhatsApp is a Social Media app designed for children aged 16+ as younger children struggle to navigate the group chat function safely.

We advise that if children need to contact each other directly that they do so through other means e.g. a text message or a telephone call. We do not promote private conversations in a group format. This year, as in previous years, we have found that these types of group chats lead to arguments and disagreements amongst our children as they become involved with discussions which they should not be part of.

We understand that there is only so much control we have on what the children access at home, but we urge you to be **extra vigilant** of your child's use of social media in its many different and ever growing forms.

Additional information about WhatsApp (and other apps) can be found here:

<https://www.netaware.org.uk/networks/whatsapp/> and www.thinkuknow.co.uk

As a school, we do not use WhatsApp to communicate with children or parents, and hold no responsibility for groups that have been set up.

We strongly advise a device free bedroom policy after bedtime to allow for uninterrupted sleep and rest. Although we cannot govern matters occurring out of school hours which is parental responsibility, we will take action (such as reporting under age profiles) if a problem comes to our attention that involves the safety or wellbeing of any of our pupils. This also refers to inappropriate text messages.

If your child has received any malicious communications, you can call 101. If you have serious concerns about your child's online safety, you can report this to Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP).

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Robins

Deputy Head and Safeguarding Lead



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