

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Dear Parents/carers,

Re: Responsible Use of Technology – WhatsApp and Year 6 Students

It has been brought to our attention that there is a significant number of Year 6 children using Whatsapp, either as part of group chats or to message each other directly. Some children have been using the app to send inappropriate, hurtful messages to each other, causing ongoing distress.

We would like to remind all parents that **WhatsApp's minimum age requirement is 16 years old. All our Year 6 students are below this age threshold, which means they should not be using the platform.** This age restriction is in place to protect children from potential risks such as exposure to harmful content, online bullying, and the complexities of digital communication they may not yet be ready to navigate.

While we understand that communication and group chats can seem like an easy way for children to stay connected, we would strongly recommend that parents monitor their child's use of phones, apps and online communication outside of school.

To support your child's online activity, we recommend:

1. Monitoring: Regularly checking your child's device and discussing the apps they use.
2. Educating: Having open conversations about appropriate online behaviour, the importance of kindness, and the consequences of misuse.
3. Setting Boundaries: Ensuring your child adheres to age restrictions and using parental controls where necessary.

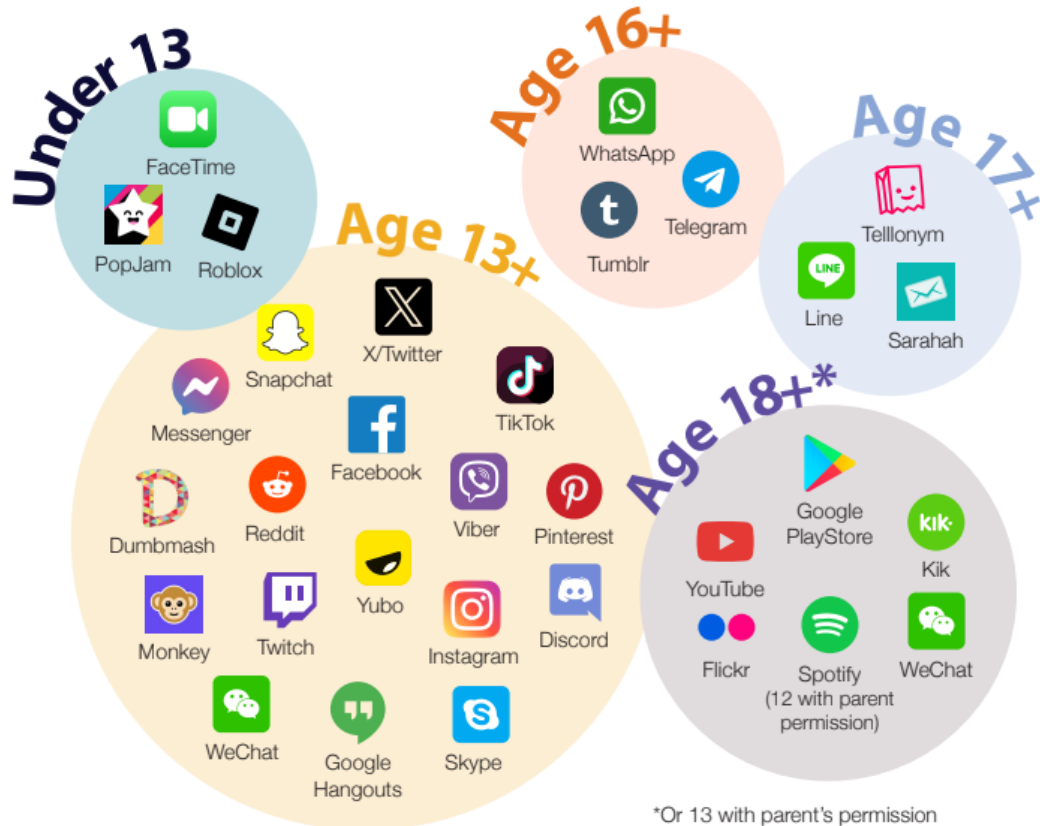
To support parents further, on Thursday 13th February from 9-10am, there is a parent workshop on online safety in the school hall. Your children will also be receiving their annual online safety workshop during the day.

Also please read the attached information from Enfield Local Authority - [Keep Your Child Safe Online Guide 2024.pdf](#)

It includes useful information and raises awareness to support you in keeping your children safe online.

## A guide to the minimum age restrictions in place for popular social media platforms

What is the minimum age for account holders on these social media sites and apps?



Please feel free to reach out to the school if you would like additional guidance or have any concerns.

Yours sincerely,

**Justyna Powrie**  
Headteacher