



Monday 28th March 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been brought to our attention that some children in year 5 and 6 are not using their mobile phone responsibly at home.

We would ask that you closely monitor your children's interactions on the internet; this includes computer games where they are able to communicate with others online. The majority of games and mobile apps have age restrictions, for example, the minimum age that children are allowed to access Whatsapp is 16. The reason for this is that children who are younger are not ready to use the app in a responsible manner.

We recognise that the mobile phones of year 5 and 6 children may have a part to play in securing pupils' personal safety when travelling to and from school. However, we would ask that if you find your child using their mobile phone in an irresponsible manner, that you remove the device from them and perhaps provide one that does not have the functions for whatsapp etc.

We will continue to teach your children how to behave responsibly on the internet and we appreciate your efforts also. Please visit Common Sense Media which has lots of tips for how to encourage responsible behaviour when using the internet. <https://www.commonsensemedia.org/articles/screen-time>

Top tips



Talk with your child about responsible use of their phone

Discuss what is okay and not okay to use their phone for. Talk about time limits and expectations of where the device can and cannot be used, this could include things like the phone being charged outside their bedroom overnight.



Discuss what to do if something upsetting or worrying happens

Give them the strategies they need in case something concerning happens whilst they are using their device. This could be to lock the screen and tell an adult, to make a report to the platform they are using, or to block the user.



Explore parental controls

Take a look at the controls available both on the phone itself and on your home Wi-Fi. Talk these through with your child too. Parental controls are a helpful tool, but an open conversation with your child is the most important thing.

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If you have any concerns about any children in our school, please contact Designated Safeguarding Lead Sarah Wilson, or Deputy Safeguarding Leads Claire Trehella/Nicola Gentleman.

Many thanks for your continued support.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Claire Trehella".

Claire Trehella

Deputy Headteacher and Leader of Inclusion



Artsmark
Gold Award
Awarded by Arts
Council England

