



**SHREWSBURY CATHEDRAL
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL and
NURSERY
Diocese of Shrewsbury**

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We work, we love, we learn, we pray, We spread the Gospel message everyday

11 February 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to you to let you know that over this term there have been a number of incidents of children in year 5 having inappropriate communications within group chats (predominately WhatsApp) and whilst playing games online. We know that the inappropriate use of social media or the internet is done from home or on students' mobile devices during evenings, weekends and holidays and this makes it very difficult for schools to investigate and take action.

The responsibility for monitoring a child's use of social media, or indeed the internet in general, lies with parents / carers. We strongly encourage you to discuss issues around this with your child. For example, do you know what Apps your child has on their phone, who they communicate with and whether you have set parental controls? It is also worth noting the age limits for Facebook, Instagram, Whatsapp, Snapchat and TikTok, further information <https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/what-age-can-my-child-start-social-networking/>

If your child is the victim of inappropriate use then we strongly recommend that you, as a parent / carer, report the matter to both the social media service and to the police.

However, to support you and your child the school will:

- Continue, through our computing curriculum, RHSE and assemblies, to educate students of the dangers of inappropriate use of the internet
- Continue to monitor the use of any form of ICT in normal school hours, and will deal with anything deemed inappropriate
- Refer anything that we believe could be defined as, or could potentially lead to, a Child Protection issue to the appropriate external agencies
- Continue to support parents with advice on how to tackle inappropriate use either by their own child or others

I hope that you find this information useful and by working together, as outlined in this letter, I trust that we can keep all our students safe and well.

Yours sincerely,

Graeme Hawes

Paul Higgins

Mr G Hawes
Executive Headteacher

Mr Higgins
Head of School



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