



**St. John's
CE Primary School**

Growing and learning together, sharing the love of God

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Dear Y6 Parents/Carers

20th October 2020

Concerns regarding online safety and cyber- bullying

I am writing to raise serious concerns regarding Y6 children's use of social media at this time, especially TikTok, WhatsApp and communication on Xbox. Some children are coming into school upset, distressed or angry about incidents that have taken place online in the evenings or at weekends. Incidents have included threats, obscene language, name calling and shaming others. One TikTok post that has been shared with me even involved a parent participating with their child. This is then having a detrimental impact on the time in school when children should be learning and we are spending a lot of time sorting out problems that have not taken place in school.

Many of the children seem to be part of class-wide WhatsApp groups, one of these groups also includes members of Dorchester Middle School. This might potentially mean that children do not know everyone that is in the group and are making themselves very vulnerable.

Ultimately I am very worried about this and a number of parents have contacted me to share their concerns too.

Please ensure you are monitoring and safeguarding what your child is accessing online, who they are talking to and what they are saying. Can I strongly encourage you to check out how to filter and block any unsuitable material your child might be able to access online. I am attaching some links that you might find useful

Social media has had a positive role to play- especially during lockdown where it has helped children to feel connected to friends. However there are many dangers also and the negative impact it can cause to children's safety, well-being and mental health is something we must all take very seriously.

Yours sincerely,

Amanda Aze
Head Teacher

<https://www.supportline.org.uk/problems/cyber-bullying/>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/staying-safe-online/>

<https://www.uswitch.com/mobiles/guides/mobile-phone-safety/>

