



Goldenhill Primary Academy



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"Everyone shines at Goldenhill"

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Wednesday 5th February 2025

Dear Parents & Carers,

RE: WhatsApp

I hope this message finds you well.

I want to bring to your attention an important concern regarding the use of WhatsApp among some children at our school. As you may know, WhatsApp has an age restriction of 13 years and older. Unfortunately, we've noticed that many children are using the app to communicate, often forming groups with their peers without their consent.

While messaging apps can be a great way to stay connected, they also come with significant risks, especially for children below the recommended age limit. We've received reports of children encountering unpleasant messages and inappropriate content within these groups. This not only affects their well-being at home and school but can also lead to anxiety and distress.

As part of our commitment to online safety, we regularly discuss with children the potential dangers of using messaging apps, including the fact that once a message is sent, it can be seen by others, sometimes leading to misunderstandings, bullying and on occasions inappropriate content.

To support your child's online safety, we kindly ask that you have open conversations with them about the responsible use of messaging apps. Here are a few points to consider:

Age Appropriateness: Remind your child that some apps, like WhatsApp, are not designed for users under 13, and encourage them to use age-appropriate platforms.

Group Chats: Explain the risks of joining groups with people they don't know. These groups can expose them to inappropriate content or conversations.

Monitoring Activity: Regularly check your child's digital activity to ensure they are using apps safely and responsibly.

To assist you further, I've included a link to a helpful **Parent's Guide to WhatsApp**, which outlines the associated risks and offers practical tips: <https://shorturl.at/3ebHI>

Additionally, I encourage you to explore the **FREE National Online Safety APP**, where you can access valuable resources and training courses tailored for parents. You can sign up quickly by visiting:

<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/enrol/goldenhill-primary-academy> and completing your details. When you're set up, you'll be able to set 'Parent/Carer' as your user type.

You can access National Online Safety online via any device- including via their brand-new smartphone app. To download the app, please go to:

<https://apps.apple.com/gb/app/national-online-safety/id1530342372>

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=uk.co.nationaleducationgroup.nos>

Alternatively, search for 'National Online Safety' in the App Store/Google Play Store.

Answers to frequently asked questions and customer service can be accessed at
<https://helpdesk.thenationalcollege.co.uk/helpcentre>.

Thank you for your support in keeping our children safe online. Together, we can help them navigate the digital world responsibly.

Kind Regards,

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Mr. S Martin

Head Teacher