



Goldenhill Primary Academy



Head teacher: Mr. S Martin BA (Hons).NPQH

"Everyone shines at Goldenhill"

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Monday 28th November 2022

Dear Parents & Carers,

RE: WhatsApp

It has come to my attention that a number of children across the school are using WhatsApp as a communication method, **an APP that has an age restriction of 16 years +**. Many of these children are associated with a number of groups, which they have set up and are using on a regular basis.

Unfortunately, it has reported that, in some occasions, this is also being used a method to send unpleasant messages, which is having a negative impact on children both at home and at school.

As part of our online safety curriculum, we are speaking to children about the risks and harm of using messaging APP's in this way and how, once a message or messages have been sent, these are 'out there' for other people to see.

Please can I ask that you talk to your children to reinforce these important messages and are regularly checking what messages they are sending and receiving. I have also included a parent's guide to WhatsApp. This includes advice for parents and carers about WhatsApp and some of the associated risks.

This guide, alongside a number of other useful resources and training courses for parents can be found by downloading the FREE National Online Safety APP and creating an account (this only takes a couple of minutes).

You can do this by following <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>.

Kind Regards,

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Mr. S Martin
Head Teacher

