



LIONEL WALDEN PRIMARY SCHOOL

"Putting children first. Progress through partnership"

Headteacher - Mr Steve Abey

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Dear Parents / Carers

It has been brought to my attention by a number of concerned parents that a group of children have been creating groups on WhatsApp and that these have turned nasty in nature leading to children becoming concerned and upset. Inevitably, this often then spills over into school and interferes with friendships and learning.

The school takes all incidents of this nature very seriously and may pass on any inappropriate content e.g. via screenshots that we receive on to the relevant authorities should it be deemed necessary. The school can also use its Anti-Bullying policy to also ensure that this type of negative behaviour is deterred.

Children are taught regularly, in class and in assemblies, the importance of online safety and we often discuss areas such as kindness, respect and the value of friendships. They are also taught about online content and that what they post online affects others. We have spoken about taking responsibility for their own actions and that once something is posted, they lose control over it.

Can I please encourage you to talk to your child about the dangers of accessing apps like WhatsApp and about the damage they can do to themselves or others when used inappropriately. Apps or controls on phones easily allow parents to control aspects of communication.

If children find that they are upset about inappropriate postings then consider advising them to:

- Do not react to the posts nor continue to get involved in discussion
- Screenshot any inappropriate content for evidence
- Tell a trusted adult

If you require any support, then I can recommend the following websites that give lots of information about keeping your people safe online.

<https://www.stopbullying.gov/cyberbullying/what-is-it>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/types-of-abuse/bullying-and-cyberbullying/>

Your assistance in monitoring and talking to your children about concerns like these is very much appreciated and will ensure that both school and home are delivering the same message – Think before you post!

Kind regards

Steve Abey

Headteacher

