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Inspiring Today's Child for Tomorrow

Headteacher: Mrs. Carolyn Dalziel, BA(Hons), PGCE, NPQH

1st April 2019

Dear Year 6 Parents,

Re; Internet Use Update

I am disappointed to be writing to you all again regarding children's use of mobile technology at home. While I am well aware that I have no jurisdiction beyond my gate, when issues that involve children's safeguarding are brought to my attention, I must act and inform you so that you are aware of the safety implications of what the children are doing.

I have been brought to my attention that there was a **WhatsApp** group for which a number of Ashfield year 6 children had administration rights. As well as bad language and racist comments, children were frequently thrown out of the group and the whole thing has caused a great deal of anxiety and upset. While I understand that this group has been shut down, I believe another has started up. I think that our children are not mature enough to handle the consequences of issues that arise in the WhatsApp groups. Please see the link below which takes you to a guide for parents that you might find helpful.

<https://parentinfo.org/article/whatsapp-a-guide-for-parents-and-carers>

This is a safeguarding issue. Please be vigilant and keep your children safe. The Year 6 children are, quite naturally, naïve. We adults must not be. I think it is quite obvious from this that many parents do not really know what their children are doing with mobile technology.

Sunday night some of the messages were being sent between 10.30 and 11.00pm. Please ask yourselves these questions and ensure you know the answers:

- Does your child have access to WhatsApp?
- Do you know what they are accessing on-line and to they are messaging/talking to?
- Are they allowed to have their mobile phones in their rooms?
- How do you manage mobile devices at home?
- Do you have a technology curfew?
- Where do you store the technology so that children cannot sneak it into their rooms?
- When did you last have a conversation with your child about the fact that people on-line might not be who they claim to be?

It is essential that you take control of what your children are doing on-line at home.

Thank you for your support.

Best wishes,