



**West Moors Middle School**

**Heathfield Way, West Moors**

**Ferndown, Dorset, BH22 0DA**

**Telephone: 01202 872474**

**Email: [office@westmoorsmid.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:office@westmoorsmid.dorset.sch.uk)**

**[www.westmoorsmid.dorset.sch.uk](http://www.westmoorsmid.dorset.sch.uk)**

Dear Families,

Re: Use of WhatsApp by Children under the Age of 16

I hope that you are keeping safe and well. As the Headteacher of West Moors Middle School, I am writing to you today to address an important matter regarding the use of WhatsApp by children under the age of 16. On the 26<sup>th</sup> February 2024, I sent you a letter to ensure online safety for our children. In this letter, I shared the age restrictions set by app developers for mobile phones seeking your support to enforce these as an important measure to protect our children from potential risks associated with inappropriate content, interactions and privacy concerns.

In recent times, WhatsApp has become an increasingly popular messaging application among individuals of all ages, including children. However, it is essential for us as responsible educators and parents/ carers to acknowledge the potential risks associated with its usage, particularly for our younger children.

As you may be aware, WhatsApp's terms of service state that users must be at least 16 years of age to create an account. This age restriction is in place to safeguard the well-being and privacy of young individuals. We kindly request that you support your child in ensuring that he/ she abides by this policy and refrains from using WhatsApp until they reach the appropriate age. While WhatsApp offers various features that can facilitate communication, we believe it is crucial for children to understand the importance of responsible digital citizenship. As educators, our role extends beyond the classroom, and we strive to equip our children with the necessary knowledge and skills to navigate the digital world safely.

There are alternative platforms that are more suitable for children under 16, such as Kinzoo or Messenger Kids. These platforms provide age-appropriate content and enhanced safety measures, ensuring a secure environment for our young learners to communicate and socialise.

We encourage you to engage in open conversations with your child about the responsible use of technology and the potential risks associated with inappropriate online behaviour. By instilling these values at home, we can collectively create a safer digital environment for our children.

Please can you review the apps your child currently has on his/ her phone and ensure that these are age appropriate according to set guidelines. For further information, please click [here](#) and should you require any additional guidance or support regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact us. We are here to assist you and address any concerns you may have.

Thank you for your cooperation and commitment to your child's well-being. Together, we can help them navigate the digital landscape responsibly and ensure their safety.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Craddock

Headteacher



**Thriving to Achieve our Best – Together**  
**Head Teacher: Dr D Craddock PhD MA BSc (Hons) NPQH**

