

# Wingfield Primary School

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Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Dear parents and carers,

As I know some of you are aware, we have been dealing with a situation in school this week regarding children's messaging to each other over 'Snapchat'. These situations are occurring at the weekend and in the evenings but obviously we are taking time to follow up in school. We are asking for your help in trying to prevent this happening. It is not uncommon in Year 6 for these issues to start occurring as children get used to more freedom on social media and are learning how to navigate it. It is important for children to have the opportunity to do this. Banning them permanently solves nothing as they have no opportunity to learn successfully alongside their peers, however, they do need careful monitoring from their parents and carers. 'Snapchat' can be particularly difficult for parents as unlike some of the other platforms you can't 'friend' or join groups to keep a distant eye. We have spoken to the children this week as a year group and given them the following message. It would be really helpful if you could reiterate this at home.

- On social media, you are responsible for your actions and accountable for them and you can get into serious trouble if you are rude or unkind. From the age of 10 you are criminally responsible.
- You have no idea who has taken a screen shot of your comments and once that has happened you can NEVER get them back. This can seriously affect your reputation now and in the future.
- Think carefully about groups. You don't need to be part of lots and lots of groups. Remember that people can feel left out and removing someone from a group without telling them can be very hurtful. If you see that people are starting to be unkind or rude on a group remove yourself immediately. You might feel like you will be excluded from friends if you do that but actually you will be encouraging others to do the right thing and you'll be surprised because others will follow you and remove themselves.
- Whatever you say on 'Snapchat' is the same as saying it in real life.
- Swearing and bad language is completely inappropriate.

We have also added some helpful apps/websites for you below.

## **BBC Own It**

[Parents - help kids make the most of their lives online - Own It - BBC](#)

## **Parent's guide to social media**

[Social media guides - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)

## **Think u know**

[Parents homepage \(thinkuknow.co.uk\)](#)

## **Child Net**

[Childnet — Online safety for young people](#)

## **NSPCC**

[Online Safety for Children - Tips & Guides | NSPCC](#)



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Lastly, whilst the children need to feel like they are trusted, they do need regular checks. I would highly recommend telling your child that they must give you their phone password and doing checks to see what they are saying. It may be that you don't need to check that often but for the children they then know that you are keeping an eye, and this alone will be a deterrent.

Thank you in advance for your support.



**Dr Ross Silcock**  
Headteacher