Parents Guide: WhatsApp

E-Safety Advice for Parents and Carers

Glebe School

Staying safe online: Whatsapp

WhatsApp says the minimum age of use is 16, however younger children can easily use this app.

What are the risks?

- There's a risk of bullying, particularly in group chats

- There's a risk of seeing content of a sexual nature, or showing violence and hatred

- There's a threat to safety if your child shares their live location, particularly with people they don't know in person

- They may receive spam or hoax messages

- In group chats, any users who aren't in your child's contacts can see messages they post in the group, and your child will be able to see messages they post

Remind your child to talk to you about the things they have seen online, and try to remain calm and reassuring - one of the main reasons children will be reluctant to report online incidents is a fear of 'getting into trouble'.

Remember, if you have concerns about the content your child has seen online, you can report it to one of **CEOP's** child protection advisors. **www.ceop.police.uk**

As with all online activities, we recommend the SMART approach

Secret: Do not share personal information about yourself on WhatsApp, such as sharing your location or passwords.

Meeting: Do not arrange to meet someone from WhatsApp.

Accepting: Only open WhatsApp links from people you know.

Reliable: Know that not everything you see on WhatsApp is trustworthy or true.

Tell: Report anything you see on WhatsApp that makes you feel uncomfortable.

WE ARE SMART ONLINE

Secret
We keep our personal information secret

Meeting
We never arrange to meet someone we only know online.

Accepting
We think before accepting friend requests or attachments.

Reliable
We know not everything we see online is reliable or trustworthy.

Tell
If we are ever worried, we 'turn off and tell' a trusted adult.

CEOP
A National Crime Agency command

Steps to stay safe on WhatsApp'

1. Keep personal information and location private

By default, WhatsApp shows profile photos, status and when you last used it to all users. Encourage your child to only share this information with their contacts, and to only talk to people they know in person on the app, as any-one could pretend to be a child online.

To check and change these settings:

Tap the 3 dots in the top-right of the home screen, then > Settings > Account > Privacy. Tap the setting you want to change, then choose who it should be visible to

WhatsApp also has a feature that you can use to share your 'live location' with others.

Tell your child to keep this turned off, or to only share their location with

people they trust.

To check this:

Tap the 3 dots in the top-right of the home screen, then > Settings > Account > Privacy > Live location

2. Remind your child to be careful about what they share

It's easy to forward messages, photos and videos to others via this app. Even if your child deletes an image from their phone after sharing it, this won't delete the image from other people's phones.

So encourage your child to think carefully about what they share and with who. Before they share anything, tell them to ask themselves:

"would I want others to see what I'm about to send?".

3. Remind your child they can leave group chats

If they see something they're not comfortable with in a group chat, or are in a chat with someone they don't know and are uncomfortable with, they should leave the group.

To do this:

Go into the group chat, tap the 3 dots in the top-right,

then > More > Exit group

4. Make sure your child knows how to report and block people

Whenever they first receive a message from an unknown number, WhatsApp will give them an option to report the message.

If someone in your child's contacts is upsetting them or making them uncomfortable, they can report or block them at any point. (WhatsApp won't tell the user they've been blocked/reported.) To do this:

On an iPhone, open the chat, tap the contact's name, then > Block contact > Block (or Report and Block). In Android, open the chat, tap the 3 dots in the top-right, then > More > Block (or Report) To

report issues like offensive or abusive content or spam:

In Android, tap the 3 dots in the top-right of the home screen, then > Settings > Help > Contact us On iPhone, go to Settings > Help > Contact us

5. Encourage your child to be alert to spam and hoax messages

Explain that these can appear to come from contacts, as well as people they don't know. Tell your child to watch out for messages that:

- Ask them to tap on a link, or specifically to click on a link to activate a new feature
- Ask them to share personal information like bank account details, date of birth or passwords
- Ask them to forward the message
- Suggest that if they do not forward the message something unlucky may happen
- Say they have to pay to use WhatsApp
- Have spelling or grammar errors

Safer Internet Day 2023

E-Safety Videos

Example of Yr 8 Student's

E-safety Brochure

What are we doing at Glebe to protect young people?

Educating young people about E-safety is something that we take very seriously at Glebe. E-safety is taught across all key stages and students are constantly involved in new and interesting ways of learning about E-safety and supporting their peers with that knowledge too.

An example of this is the annual e-safety video that year 8 students create, designed to teach others about their newfound knowledge around internet safety. The video is available to view on the school website and it was also shown in assembly as part of Safer Internet Day. The E-safety tab on our website is regularly updated and we aim to make this an easily accessible resource for carers and parents for all the latest E-safety related information.

At Glebe we also have sophisticated web filters provided by the LGFL, which prevent children accessing inappropriate websites.

Pastoral Care

Students who attend Glebe know that there is a network of support if they have issues in school or at home relating to E-safety. There is always an adult who children can talk to and safeguarding is of the utmost importance.

For those pupils who don't feel confident enough to talk to someone online we educate pupils about useful websites such as **CEOP Online** and **Childline**, who offer confidential advice and reporting methods for young people at risk.

The Future of E-safety at Glebe

At Glebe we regularly review our E-safety guidance and policies to ensure that we maintain a high standard of care for the young people who attend our school. We feel that the link between ourselves and parents / carers is an extremely important part of providing comprehensive protection for young people using the internet. Our policies have the full support and backing of our governors.

We are are planning an E-safety Webinar on Wednesday 8th November which will cover a much broader range of Esafety related issues. Please read our recent letter which was sent to all parents, with information on how you can be part of this.

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