John Fletcher of Madeley Primary School

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Headteacher – Mrs S Cross
Chair of Governors – Mr P Owens

"***Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart***", Colossians 3:23

11th h February 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

We as a school are currently being made aware of an increase in incidents of targeted peer on peer abuse, disagreements/arguments and transferring of inappropriate images and videos. These seem to have taken place on group WhatsApp chats and have caused emotional distress to an increasing number of pupils. In terms of Safeguarding, we are having to deal with these disclosures and the impact of the disagreements, arguing or bullying is continuing in school. In some cases, it is now heavily impacting upon teaching and learning.

We work exceptionally hard to educate all our pupils how to keep safe unfortunately, use of mobile phones is beyond our jurisdiction. We rely on you as parents/carers to ensure that use of any technology (online) is carried out safely and respectfully. We would appreciate if you could monitor your child's online activity and social media to ensure they are kept safe. I've provided some helpful information below that should help.

Focus on: WhatsApp

What is WhatsApp and how does it work?

WhatsApp is an app which allows your child to send instant messages only to contacts that they have added to their WhatsApp account. Only people who have a WhatsApp account can send and receive messages through the app. Messages can be sent one to one or within a group conversation.

The minimum age requirement for using WhatsApp is 16 years old.

It is important to talk to your child regularly about what they are doing online and make sure that they know that they should always talk to you or another trusted adult if they have any concerns. **Please make sure the appropriate privacy settings are set up and your child knows how to block and report other users if necessary.**

We as a school will continue to re-iterate online safety for all our pupils and in particular highlight communicating through use of mobile devices or consoles.

The following link will provide further help and advice about WhatsApp:

https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/whatsapp-safety-a-how-to-guide-for-parents/?gclid=EAIaIQobChMI4bCrj8rt9QIVE5zVCh3LaA99EAAYASAAEgJYCPD_BwE

Whilst we appreciate that in some cases this may not apply to your child, we feel that sharing this information with all parents is important. Also, we would like to thank those parents who have been extra vigilant and have informed us of this.

Thank you in advance for supporting us in this matter.

Kind regards,

R. Welsh.

Mrs Welsh (Deputy Headteacher)