



13<sup>th</sup> February 2023

**Year 5 - Snapchat**

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to make you aware of some information we have received regarding a Snapchat group in Year 5 that involves a large number of pupils. Within this group, there have been several inappropriate messages that involve swearing and threatening language.

Snapchat is a platform that has an age restriction of 13+ and therefore children in Year 5 should not be using it. The platform allows users to share videos and pictures that will disappear when viewed. It also allows user's friends to see where they are using a maps feature. This presents as a safeguarding risk, if the privacy settings have not been set up correctly and if it is not monitored. As a school, this is not something we can police, but we can provide support to parents and pupils. As a parent, it is your responsibility to monitor how pupils behave online to ensure that they are safe.

Can you please check if your child is using Snapchat and whether they are currently part of this group. If you choose to let your child, use social media platforms, please check this regularly to ensure that the content they are viewing is age appropriate, as it is very easy to view content that is not.

I know that for many of you, this letter will not apply, and I thank you for taking a vested interest on what your child is doing online.

If you need any support or guidance regarding online safety, the school's pastoral team and I are always available to help.

I have included some information on Snapchat for your reference.

Kind regards

Andrew Hayes  
Deputy Headteacher