

06/05/21



# Online Safety/Cyberbullying Awareness Workshop

# Why have this workshop?

- Like all schools TGA has had, and will sadly continue to have, children and families who are upset by online issues and incidents
- As far as we are aware these have mostly been relatively minor and all have had positive or at least acceptable outcomes
- We aim to maintain this position by positively educating our pupils, supporting families and working with parents
- We have been told of children in Year 5 and 6 who have been upset by what has happened to them on social media

# Work with pupils

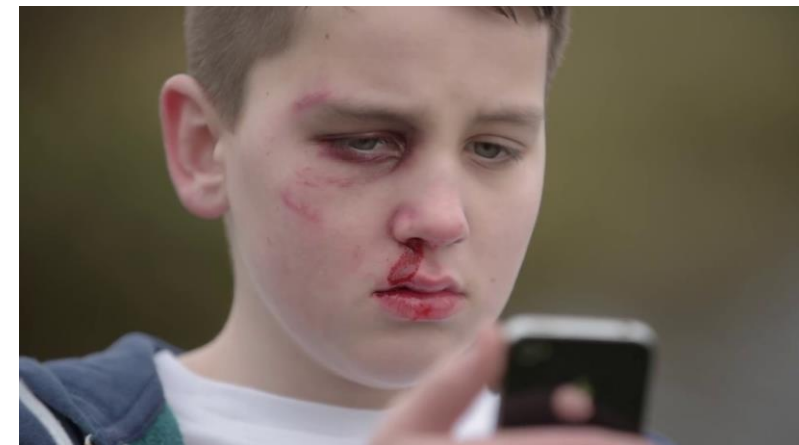
Over the last two days all children in Years 5 and 6 have discussed e-Safety and Cyberbullying issues having watched 3 videos.

E-Safety and Cyberbullying has been discussed / taught in age-appropriate ways with our pupils since they were in Reception.

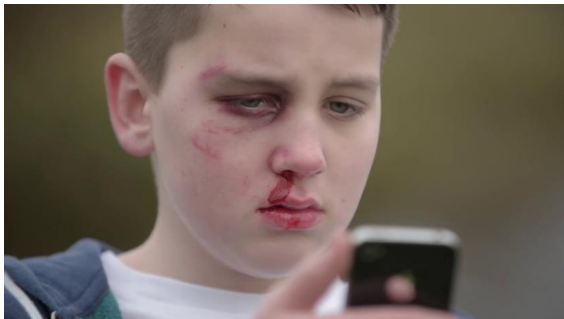
[https://youtu.be/6ctd75a7\\_Yw](https://youtu.be/6ctd75a7_Yw)

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# Key guidance for pupils



- Cyberbullying can take place anywhere, at any time and be anonymous
- Don't join in with Cyberbullying. Support friends.
- STOP (think before you post)
- BLOCK (anyone who upsets you)
- TELL (an adult you trust)

# Guidance already shared with parents

**What Parents & Carers Need to Know About WHATSAPP** 16+ in UK & EU, 12+ rest of world.

WhatsApp is the world's most popular messaging service, with around two billion users exchanging texts, photos, videos and documents, and making voice and video calls. The app offers end-to-end encryption, meaning messages can only be read by the sender and the recipient(s). Not even WhatsApp can read them. Updates to its privacy policy in 2021 reportedly caused millions of users to leave the app. But the new policy was widely misinterpreted: it only related to WhatsApp's business features, not to personal messages.

**Prize Scams**  
WhatsApp users occasionally receive messages from unauthorised third parties or fraudsters pretending to offer prizes – encouraging recipients to click a link to win. A common scam involves a warning that someone's WhatsApp subscription has run out, aiming to dupe them into disabling payment details. Other scams include instructions to forward a message to earn a gift or reward.

**Enabling Fake News**  
WhatsApp has unfortunately been linked to accelerating the spread of dangerous rumours. In India, some outbreaks of mob violence were reported to have been sparked by false allegations shared on the app. WhatsApp itself took steps to prevent its users circulating hazardous theories and speculation in the early weeks of the Covid-19 pandemic.

**Connections with Strangers**  
To start a WhatsApp chat, you need the mobile number of the person you want to message (they also need to have the app). WhatsApp can also access the address book on someone's device and recognise which of their contacts use WhatsApp. If your child has given their mobile number to somebody they don't know, that person could then use it to get in touch via WhatsApp.

**Report Potential Scams**  
Advise your child not to engage with any message that looks suspicious or too good to be true. When your child receives a message from an unknown number for the first time, they will be given the option to report that number as spam. They can also report a contact or a group as spam by tapping on the contact or group name to open their profile and scrolling down to 'report spam'.

**Create a Safe Profile**  
Even though someone would need your child's phone number to add them as a contact, as an extra precaution it's worth altering your young one's profile settings to restrict who can see their photo and status. The options are 'everyone', 'my contacts' and 'nobody'. Choosing one of the latter two ensures their profile is protected.

**Use Location Features Sparingly**  
If your child needs to use 'live location' to show you or their friends where they are, advise them to share their location only for as long as they need to. WhatsApp gives 'live location' options of 15 minutes, one hour or eight hours. However, your child can manually choose to stop sharing their position at any time.

**Fact-Check Messages**  
You can now fact-check messages that have been forwarded at least five times in WhatsApp, by double-tapping the magnifying glass icon to the right of the message. From there, your child can launch a Google search and decide for themselves whether the message was accurate or not. It's a good way to encourage young people to question things they see online.

**Ephemeral Messaging**  
By enabling the 'disappearing messages' option in a chat, users can send messages that will vanish from WhatsApp after seven days. Parents may want to take note of this new feature, which makes monitoring what children are talking about on the app problematic. Equally, if someone sends your child an inappropriate message, once it has disappeared there is no way to prove any wrongdoing.

**'Only Admins' and Cyberbullying**  
Group chats and video calls are great for connecting with multiple people in WhatsApp, but there is always the potential for someone's feelings to be hurt by an unkind comment or joke. The 'only admins' feature gives the admin(s) of a group control over who can send messages. They can, for example, block people from posting in a chat, which could make a child feel excluded and upset.

**Live Location Sharing**  
The 'live location' feature lets users share their current whereabouts, allowing friends to see their movements. WhatsApp describes it as a "simple and secure way to let people know where you are." Indeed, it is a useful method for a child to let loved ones know they are safe. But if your child is in a chat with people they don't know, it means they will be exposing their location to them, too.

**Explain about Blocking**  
If your child receives spam or offensive messages, calls or files from a contact, they should block them. Communication from a blocked contact won't show up on their device and stays undelivered. Blocking someone does not remove them from your child's contact list – they would still need to be deleted from the device's address book. The option to block someone is on their contact info screen.

**Leave a Group**  
If your child is part of a group chat that makes them feel uncomfortable, or has been added to a group that they no longer want to be part of, show them how to use the group's settings to leave. If someone asks a group, the admin can add them back in once, if they leave a second time, it is permanent.

**Delete Accidental Messages**  
If your child has posted a message in the wrong chat or sent a message that they immediately regret, they can delete it. Tap and hold on the message. Choose 'delete' and then 'delete for everyone'. WhatsApp gives seven minutes to delete a message after it's sent – but it's important to remember that recipients may have seen (and taken a screenshot of) a message before it was deleted.

- Children should be 16 to legally use WhatsApp (13+ at least for all other social media apps)
- Academy position: ideally parents are aware if their children are using any social media accounts and monitor this usage
- Blocking
- Safe Profile setting
- Leaving a group
- Location sharing safety

Guidance already shared with parents

## **Top 10 Forms of Cyberbullying**

At home, Greetland children have sometimes encountered:

- Exclusion – children being teased that they are not in a group
- Harassment – abusive messages
- Dissing – screenshots of negative group conversations sent to children
- Trolling – abusing to provoke a response and cause escalation

# Advice for Parents to share with children

- Keep it Private – don't post anything on a social networking site that identifies your real name, address, phone number, school etc. as this will enable a stranger to contact you in real life. Be careful you don't identify your friends too.
- Never upload anything that might embarrass you at a later date.
- Never feel pressurised into taking pictures of yourself that you wouldn't want others to see.
- If someone makes you feel uncomfortable, embarrassed or afraid online, you need to tell someone immediately. If someone suggests meeting up with you in real life, again, tell someone immediately. This is a huge concern, especially if they have suggested you keep it a secret. No matter how much a person tells you about themselves, if you don't know them really well in the 'real world', they are still a stranger and may not be telling you the truth.

# Advice for Parents to protect children

- Know and monitor what your children are doing online
- Agree rules about what children can do online and how they should use apps
- Talk to your children about how to interact with others, 1 to 1 and in groups
- Ask children to explain how apps work and to show how they use them
- Develop trust and mutual respect – final decisions are yours though
- Be clear that you want to help with any problems and will always be supportive

Be concerned and investigate further if your child does not want to follow the above advice, if they do not want you to see or handle their online devices.



# The Role of the Academy

- Almost all incidents and issues happen outside of school
- Pupil membership of a school is often a factor
- We are also trusted adults that your children can speak to
- We will always talk to parents about any issues
- We will always help parents to try to resolve issues
- We would all rather that issues did not happen at all

# Key guidance for pupils



- STOP (think before you post)
- BLOCK (anyone who upsets you)
- TELL (an adult you trust)

# Key advice for parents

- Know and monitor what your children are doing online
- Agree rules about what children can do online and how they should use apps
- Be clear that you want to help with any problems and will always be supportive
- Let school know if you need help – call or email (via [ks2@greetlandacademy.org.uk](mailto:ks2@greetlandacademy.org.uk))  
a classteacher, Mr Pascall or Mrs Crowther