



SUNDRIDGE & BRASTED C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

Church Road, Sundridge, Kent, TN14 6EA

Headteacher – Mr T Hardwick

Telephone: 01959 562694

e-mail: office@sundridge.kent.sch.uk

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Dear Parents,

Re: E-Safety – WhatsApp and TikTok

We sometimes have problems with children sending messages and forwarding chain mail onto others via WhatsApp. As we are aware of this issue, we would like to remind you all of the restrictions around the App and how you can help to keep your child safe.

The minimum age of use for WhatsApp is 16 years old. Like many age restrictions on social media groups, some children may choose to ignore this and sign up for WhatsApp when they are younger.

WhatsApp's main purpose is to send messages to friends - it is not public in the way that Twitter is and people can only message friends who are already added on their phone. Provided your child only has trusted people as contacts on their phone/device, it is a relatively safe social media app. Unfortunately, children sometimes post some inappropriate messages within group chats and forward chain mail that they have received from elsewhere. It is often hard for them to understand the impact of what they feel is harmless, on the other children. They are not deliberately setting out to upset people but online activity in the evening sometimes impacts on the school the next day. A good source of information is <https://parentzone.org.uk/article/whatspp> which contains information around privacy settings.

TikTok

This is often in the news as children (and adults) send money to their favourite 'influencers' on the app. This is in return for a promise to exchange a phone number or mention a fan. We have not had any specific problems in school but it is worth letting you know. There is more general information to be found on <https://parentzone.org.uk/article/tiktok-everything-you-need-to-know-about-video-production-app>. **Please be aware that TikTok has an age restriction of 13.**

If you have any worries or concerns in this respect, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind Regards,

Tom Hardwick
Headteacher