



CHELLASTON INFANT & JUNIOR SCHOOLS

Head Teacher – Mrs Lisa Turner-Rowe



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Dear Parents,

We have been made aware that images and videos have been sent to children in years 5 and 6, by other children, which are not just inappropriate but pornographic, via Whatsapp. The age restriction on Whatsapp is a minimum of 16 years old.

Please do be aware that any precautions that you take to protect your child from accessing online images and content that is not appropriate for them will not protect them from any child whose parent has not done the same.

It is important to note that statistics show that a huge percentage of children will have seen pornographic material by the time they are 12 or 13, the vast majority of this has been sent, by other children, via Whatsapp and other messaging services.

We send you this information not to scare you but to make you aware so that you can take all possible precautions to protect your child from harm when they are using devices outside of school.

If you would like to find out more information about how to secure your child's device, please do click here: [Parental Controls & Privacy Settings Guides | Internet Matters](#). **We have also included some information about Whatsapp below.**

Kind Regards,

Lisa Turner-Rowe
Head Teacher



East Midlands
Education Trust





WhatsApp safety guide for parents

internet
matters.org

16+

WhatsApp's
minimum age
in the UK

58%

Kids aged 3-17
who use
WhatsApp

37%

Kids under 13
who use
WhatsApp



5 tips to keep kids safe on WhatsApp



1 **Review privacy settings** WhatsApp has a range of privacy and security settings to keep users safe. Customise groups, app access, live location and more.



2 **Customise contacts** Show your child how to report and block unwanted contacts. Then, work with them to add their friends and family. Review and talk about their contacts regularly.



3 **Talk about personal information** Make sure your child understands what personal information is. Talk about the importance of keeping that information private on WhatsApp.



4 **Show them where to get support** If something goes wrong or they see something worrying on WhatsApp, make sure they know to come to you, and talk about other sources of support.



5 **Check in regularly** Once you've done all of the above, check in with them regularly to review settings and how they use WhatsApp.

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