



Thursday 26th February 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to you today to raise an important and growing concern regarding children's online behaviour and their use of digital devices and social media platforms outside of school.

Over recent weeks, we have been made aware of a number of incidents involving pupils accessing or sharing inappropriate content online. These concerns include:

- Children viewing and sharing unsuitable images or videos.
- Pupils taking and sharing photographs with the intention of being unkind or hurtful.
- Increasing use of inappropriate and offensive language online, including racial slurs, homophobic slurs and comments of a sexual nature.
- Involvement in WhatsApp group chats, group calls and group voice messages where unkind behaviour is taking place.
- Children communicating with unknown individuals through online platforms and messaging services.

Although many of these issues occur outside school hours—either after the school day or during weekends and holidays—they are having a significant impact on pupils' wellbeing in school. Friendship breakdowns, upset, and conflict are increasingly being brought into the classroom, affecting children's emotional health and their ability to learn.

Social Media Age Restrictions

We would like to take this opportunity to remind all families that most social media and messaging platforms have strict age restrictions:

- **WhatsApp: 13+**
- **Snapchat: 13+**
- **Instagram: 13+**
- **TikTok: 13+**

As primary school children are below these minimum age requirements, they **should not be using these platforms**. These age limits are in place to protect children from inappropriate content, online harm, and interactions with strangers.

How You Can Help

We ask for your support in the following ways:

- Check your child's devices regularly and monitor the apps they are using.
- Ensure parental controls and privacy settings are activated.
- Talk to your child about staying safe online and being kind in digital spaces.
- Support the school by ensuring your child does not use platforms that they are too young for.
- Encourage your child to speak to you or a trusted adult if they encounter anything online that worries them.



COURTWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Nurturing Knowledge;
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As a school, we continue to teach children about online safety as part of our computing and PSHE curriculum. However, children's online activity outside of school remains an area where your partnership is crucial.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us keep all children safe, respectful, and responsible when using technology. If you have any concerns or wish to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

Natasha Grant
Principal

RESPECT

RESILIENCE

ASPIRATION

KINDNESS



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