

# E-Safety Newsletter Spring 2023



## Welcome!



At Gorse Hall Primary and Nursery school, safeguarding our pupils is top of our priorities. In an ever-changing digital world, it is vital (as educators and parents/carers) to keep in line with online innovations, new trends and changes to existing platforms, apps etc. We hope this newsletter, and future E-Safety newsletters, will keep you informed and support you in keeping your child safe online. Any suggestions on items to include, please feel free to email...

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## Blocking and reporting

Other users can be reported and also blocked within the app. To do so, simply click their name to bring up their information and choose either 'Block contact,' or 'Report contact.' Remove contact from address book if necessary.



Living in a digital age means more pupils now own a mobile phone and at a younger age. There is an increasing number of pupils who use WhatsApp for messaging other pupils.

The negative impact of participating in group chats have been shared and discussed with pupils regularly in class, assemblies, theme days/weeks, PSHE/RSE Jigsaw lessons and our Computing Curriculum.

**WhatsApp is continually risk -assessed and is intended for 16+ years.** From our experience, if a child is younger than this they cannot always manage chats/negative language in an appropriate manner and this can impact upon their mental health. Frequently, these incidents can impact upon learning in class.

Although pupils feel that they can say unkind/derogatory comments about another child and/or their family, messages can be screen-shot leaving a digital footprint.

Please continue to monitor your child's use on WhatsApp and Snapchat, particular where group chats are involved. For more information, this is a really helpful guide.

[WhatsApp safety: a how to guide for parents - Internet Matters](#)

## Managing Group Chats

**Talk about WhatsApp** with your child. If your child is under 16 years and you allow them to use it, explain how to manage the volume of content, pressures from peers, how to respond to comments and different ways to deal with unkind behaviour.

**Mute a group** if notifications are becoming too distracting and interrupting sleep or school work at home.

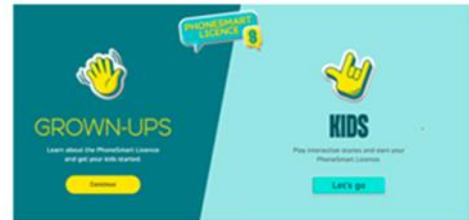
Turn off '**Read Receipts**' so your child can only see when messages are delivered. This relieves the pressure to respond immediately.

Disable '**Last seen**' status. This stops other people seeing when you were last active. Having it on can make children anxious if they know the person is active but not responding to messages. **Disable by Settings-Account-Last seen, then change setting to 'Nobody'**.

**Leave a group** when it is becoming overwhelming, upsetting etc. An admin will need to re-admit them back into the group.

## Is your child phone-ready?

EE has a resource where children can complete training to show they are ready to have a phone and use it safely and sensibly. This applies to any phone on any network.



The following information may be of help too.

Is your Child Ready for a Mobile Phone? - [Childcare.co.uk](http://Childcare.co.uk)



## Website Information

There are many more useful resources and links for parents and pupils on our school website.

### Additional Resources



Reading Corner



E-Safety



School Blog



Mental Health & Well Being



Ofsted Parent View



Visit us on Facebook

**How to make a report online if you are worried or upset about online content or online behaviour. There is also a link on the E-Safety section of the school website.**

<https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/>

**Should I make a report to CEOP? →**  
If you're worried about online abuse or the way someone has been communicating online, let CEOP know.

**What happens when I make a report? →**  
One of our experienced Child Protection Advisors will be there to make sure you get the help that you need.

**How can CEOP help me? →**  
Online abuse affects many children and young people every day, CEOP has helped thousands of people in need of support.

## UK Safer Internet Centre

Safer Internet Day 2023 will take place on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2023. School based learning will be on the theme '**Want to talk about it? Making space for conversations about life online**'.