



New Haw Community School

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13th March 2024

Dear Parents

Behaviour on WhatsApp

Despite talking to parents and children last week regarding online abuse via WhatsApp, it has been brought to our attention (by concerned parents) that pupils have established another group on WhatsApp, and the abuse continues.

This time however, the abuse was against other pupils in the form of offensive and abusive posts, including audio messages. Pupils who had not sought to be part of the chat were added by others and did not know how to withdraw from the group. This abusive behaviour constitutes online bullying and cannot be tolerated.

We cannot emphasise strongly enough how inappropriate these communication apps are for primary school children – hence the reason there are minimum age restrictions on them. The reality is that pupils of this age do not have the requisite emotional and social skills to effectively manage online communications in this manner and are at risk of being drawn into potentially abusive and destructive conversations. We ask you once again to delete these apps from your child's phone.

We have spoken to the pupils involved and their parents and have been assured that the messages and the WhatsApp group has been deleted.

Should you have any concerns please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind Regards,

Marie Cahill
Executive Headteacher