



Barrowby Church of England Primary School

May 2024

Dear Parents/Carers of children in Year 6

One of our parents has contacted the school to inform me that she believes her child has met someone online who she believes may well be 'grooming' her child. She had noticed a change in their behaviour and as such contacted the NSPCC for advice. Advice and support have been given and actions taken to keep them safe and to identify the perpetrator.

The app in question is SnapChat.

SnapChat is a social media platform for 13 years or older.

I would like to strongly advise each of you to have a conversation with your child/ren about the use of technology at home. While they may wish to access social media apps and you may feel they are old enough, the age restrictions are there for a reason. **Can you be 100% confident you know who your child/ren are talking to/messaging on line while at home?**

As children become older, they would like to become more independent but I would urge parents to remember that our Year 6 children are only 10 or 11 years old and are not necessarily well equipped or emotionally resilient to deal with difficult conversations or situations they find themselves in, while online.

As a school, we recommend that any primary age pupils, on-line at home access 'age appropriate content' and should be monitored by parents while using any internet-based communication service e.g. iPad, iPod, X-box, e-mail, text, smartphone.

Parents should consider how they can keep their child safe at home, while they are online. Our advice would be for you to:

- **supervise any and all internet access, while at home, by a pupil of our school (4-11 years old) e.g. while children are on-line they should be in the same room as the adult;**
- monitor the applications your child is downloading/using e.g. from iTunes, Play Store
- limit the amount of time pupils have access to technology to avoid excessive usage of age appropriate on-line gaming and internet access
- inform your child/ren that you will periodically check internet search histories and follow through e.g. monthly
- regularly monitor and review access to: age appropriate chat rooms e.g. Kik, Moshi Monsters, and other social media

We recommend that, prior to children accessing the internet through Mobile phones, Laptops, Tablets or on-line gaming via X-Box etc

Parents should

- ensure up to date security software/protocols are installed and enable any:
 1. Fireguards and anti-virus software
 2. Parental controls and
 3. Filters before use by children

and discuss with their child/ren what they would do, if someone:

- e-mailed or verbalised
- or text



- or sent inappropriate images
- or posted content

they deemed inappropriate or hurtful **or** they had not given permission to be used i.e. report to parent and/or teacher and appropriate action taken; **or** what they would do if they were asked for personal details e.g. name, age, school, address etc. from someone they did not know i.e. no personal details should ever be shared on-line.

Today, I strongly recommend that you review the applications your child has access to on their devices at home as well as discuss with your child/ren what they might do if they were talking to someone online and they didn't like the conversation.

Thank you for your support and I hope that we will be able to avoid e safety issues of this nature in the future.

Yours sincerely



Mr L Batey
Headteacher

