



Barrowby Church of England Primary School

January 2026

Dear Parents/Carers of children in Year 6,

This week, I have become aware that a small number of our Year 6 children are accessing **Xbox Live online chat features whilst at home** and have joined, set up, or been added to chats with other children, including peers from their class.

Xbox Live allows users to communicate through voice and written chat functions while gaming. Unfortunately, some of the interactions that have been brought to our attention involve a small number of children **using inappropriate language, including swearing and abusive or derogatory comments**. This behaviour has caused upset to some of the children and families involved.

It is important that as children become older and gain more independence when using technology, they understand how to conduct themselves appropriately while online. I would urge parents to remember that our Year 6 children are only **10 or 11 years old** and may not yet be emotionally equipped or resilient enough to manage difficult conversations, conflicts, or negative behaviour they encounter during online gaming or chat interactions.

As a school, we recommend that any primary-aged pupils accessing online gaming at home do so using **age-appropriate content**, and that their use of internet-based communication services is **closely monitored by parents**. This includes, but is not limited to, use of games consoles such as Xbox, online gaming platforms, tablets, smartphones, messaging services, and email.

In light of this recent e-safety issue, I would like to advise parents to review the **E-Safety Newsletters** previously published by the school, including:

- **Online games with chat functions**
- **Setting parental controls**
- **Monitoring online communication**

These can be accessed via the school website.

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

- supervise all internet use by pupils of our school (aged 4–11), ensuring children are in the same room as a responsible adult;
- monitor the applications, games, and services your child is accessing or downloading;
- limit the amount of time pupils spend online to avoid excessive gaming or internet use;
- inform your child that online chats and gaming interactions will be periodically checked;
- regularly review privacy settings and access to any chat features or online communities.





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We also recommend that, prior to children accessing the internet through:

- Games consoles
- Tablets
- Mobile phones
- Laptops

parents ensure that:

1. appropriate security software is installed,
2. parental controls are enabled, and
3. content filters are in place.

It is equally important to discuss with your child what they should do if someone:

- uses abusive or derogatory language,
- makes them feel uncomfortable or upset,
- sends inappropriate messages or content, or
- asks for personal information such as their name, age, school, or address.

Children should be reminded to report such incidents to a trusted adult immediately and that **personal information should never be shared online**.

I would encourage all parents to continue this conversation at home and to review what your child has access to online, particularly regarding gaming consoles and chat features.

As a school, we want all our children to feel safe and happy. Unfortunately, due to the nature of this e-safety incident, which occurred out of school, this has not been the case for all pupils this week. Thank you for your support, and I hope that together we can prevent similar incidents in the future.

Yours sincerely,

Mr L Batey
Headteacher



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