

Friday 25 March 2022

Dear parents/carers

Use of social media and mobile phones by pupils – safeguarding

Earlier this week, it was brought to our attention that some Year 6 pupils have been using a social media app, Snapchat, where they had created a group chat outside of school. While this was created as a forum to communicate with each other, the minimum age to sign up to Snapchat is 13 - no pupil in Year 6 is therefore old enough to be using this app.

Unfortunately, some inappropriate language was used by some pupils in the group chat. Parents of these pupils have been advised of this and the pupils themselves have been spoken to and given a consequence.

If your child has a phone or tablet, please ensure that they are not accessing apps or websites that are not age-appropriate. Most social media apps have a **minimum age of 16** and despite often being created innocently, group chats can be a source of problems around inappropriate language and content being shared. 'Administrators' of a group can also add additional users who may also not be known to your child or indeed who they claim to be.

It is very important that you monitor your child's mobile phone use to ensure they are kept safe. We would also recommend adding parent filters on your WiFi and your child's mobile network. This can be done by contacting your broadband and mobile provider. We regularly discuss how to stay safe online and you may want to discuss this with your child.

If you wish for your child to bring their mobile phone to school, you must complete a request form or write a letter to the school. This is **before** your child brings their phone. **Your child should not bring their mobile phone to school until it has been authorised by the school in writing.** Once in school, your child's mobile phone must be handed to the teacher who will lock it away for the day and return it when your child leaves for the day.

If you have any concerns around your child's online activity, please contact the school where we will be happy to support you.

Yours sincerely

H. McGovern

Headteacher

CARTERHATCH JUNIOR SCHOOL
CARTERHATCH LANE
ENFIELD EN1 4JY

T 020 8804 2101
W WWW.CARTERHATCHJUNELT.ORG
E ENQUIRIES@CARTERHATCHJUNELT.ORG

HEADTEACHER MS H MCGOVERN • **DEPUTY HEADTEACHERS** MISS C NEWTON & MRS A FRY