

Yox Valley Partnership



www.southwoldprimaryschool.org.uk
www.yoxfordandpeasenhallprimaryschool.org.uk
www.middletonprimaryschool.org.uk

Academy Head - Gail Jerman
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Dear parents and carers,

I am writing to you regarding reports to Mrs Last and myself about the use of social media by Southwold Primary children. I am very concerned by the allegations being made about children in this school using Whatsapp specifically to send inappropriate images and messages to other children. Whilst incidents that occur outside school hours should be a private matter for the parents and carers of the children involved, the allegations being reported are clearly affecting the children to such an extent that they are impacting on them at school and causing distress and disruption.

In addition to the use of Whatsapp, I am aware that a growing number of our pupils play online games and engage with other children on various gaming platforms. Unfortunately, we are also receiving reports of incidents of unpleasant and abusive language that is distressing for children and their families.

Online safety is an important part of keeping children safe at Southwold Primary School. All of our pupils are taught how to stay safe and behave appropriately online, but like many schools, we find ourselves in a number of challenging and avoidable situations due to inappropriate use beyond the school gate.

I accept that messaging apps are the preferred way for lots of children to communicate with each other. However, this is a primary school, and in spite of the easy access we all have to social media, I want to highlight to you that platforms such as Whatsapp, Facebook and Instagram are age-rated apps. Whatsapp for example is rated 16+. Like any form of communication, it can be used inappropriately.

I would be very grateful for your support in helping the children use social media safely and appropriately for their age and circumstances.

Please do not hesitate to ask if you have questions or concerns.

Gail Jerman
Academy Headteacher

Never giving less than our best

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