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30th January 2026

Dear Year 7 Parents/Carers,

I have been made aware of some potentially unkind behaviour existing on WhatsApp group chats, between children in Year 7, that has recently come to our attention.

Whilst these conversations have not taken place on school systems, they do involve children from our school community. We know that online interactions can have a detrimental impact on children's wellbeing, confidence and relationships.

The minimum legal age to use WhatsApp is 13 years, as is set by the platform.

Parents should also be aware that, although WhatsApp is primarily a private messaging tool, group chats can involve people outside of a child's known contacts, which may expose them to inappropriate language or unsafe interactions.

**Please do monitor your child's online/ mobile phone interactions. A reminder that mobile phones are not permitted to be seen, used or heard at any time during the school day.**

We will be reminding children of our EGSpectation to be kind, respectful and safe when communicating with others, and how to report concerns that are directly linked to school.

Concerns related to school can be reported in the following ways:

- Contact your child's form tutor
- Contact the Year 7 Team - [Year7Team@ellisguilfordschool.org.uk](mailto:Year7Team@ellisguilfordschool.org.uk)
- Report a concern to our safeguarding team - [safeguarding@ellisguilfordschool.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@ellisguilfordschool.org.uk)

All contact details can be found on our school website at the following location: <https://www.ellisguilfordschool.org.uk/contact>

Thank you for continuing to work with us, to keep our children safe.

Kindest regards,

Miss G Johnson  
Principal