



MANOR COURT Community Primary School

incorporating **Manor Court Early Years Centre**

A Member of Preston Primary Academy Trust

Head Teacher Mr L Talmage

Deputy Head Teacher Mr A Clode **Assistant Head Teacher** Mrs G Terry

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Thursday 13th June 2024.

Dear Parents and Carers

Reference: Unsupervised use of WhatsApp, Facebook Messenger, and social media at home.

You will know that there is a national problem with instant messaging on sites such as WhatsApp and the dangers caused by underaged children using social media and instant messaging apps.

It has, once again, come to our attention that there are a number of Manor Court (notably Upper Key Stage 2) children using instant messaging services such as WhatsApp and Facebook messenger unsupervised at home. It is important for us to stress once more to you that:

- The minimum age limit to use WhatsApp is 16+.
- The minimum age limit to be able to use Facebook is 13+
- The minimum age limit to use Instagram is 13+
- The minimum age limit to use Snapchat is 13+

We are frustrated that Manor Court children are being added to group chats without their consent and that we have been informed that children are being bombarded with messages extremely late at night (past the time that children and most adult should be asleep) and that aggressive and offensive language is being used throughout some messages. In some group chats children are talking about issues such as suicide and encouraging these thoughts in others.

Unsupervised use of social media is having an adverse impact on the mental health of some Manor Court pupils and in some cases is having a negative impact on their ability to learn.

The lack of supervision of children's use of social media and instant messaging is obviously a home issue. We have strict rules about the use of mobile phones on school site and complete regular online safety lessons with our children.

We expect that all parents will support their children by placing further supervision of mobile phone use at home to ensure that each child is kept safe. This includes the checking of your child's mobile phone, the group chats that they are in and the messages that they are sending and receiving. Please help your child to block their peers and remove themselves from group chats.

We would appreciate that if you become aware of inappropriate messages that you report these to a member of our staff team.

Yours sincerely.

Luke Talmage
Headteacher

Alan Clode
Deputy Head & Inclusion Leader

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