

DOTHILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Severn Drive, Wellington, Telford, Shropshire, TF1 3JB
Telephone 01952 386870



Head Teacher: Mrs J Thomas

10th June 2026

Dear Parents/Carers - years 5 and 6

Re: Appropriate Use of Social Media and Online Safety

We are writing to inform you that the school has recently received reports regarding inappropriate use of social media, specifically the messaging platform WhatsApp and Snapchat, involving some of our pupils.

While we understand that online communication is a common part of modern life, we would like to remind all families that most social media platforms, including WhatsApp, have a minimum age requirement of 13 years. As a primary school, our pupils are below this age, and therefore should not be accessing these services.

We are particularly concerned about the use of large group chats, which can quickly become difficult to manage and may expose children to a range of risks, including:

- Exposure to inappropriate language or content
- Peer pressure or cyberbullying
- Sharing of personal information or images
- Being included in conversations that are upsetting or confusing
- Being exposed to strangers, who can communicate directly with your child

In large group settings, children may feel unable to leave or report issues, and messages can spread quickly without adult awareness or supervision.

We would like to respectfully emphasise that parents and carers play a vital role in ensuring their children's safety online. We strongly encourage you to:

- Check whether your child is using any social media or messaging apps
- Ensure that any apps used are age-appropriate
- Regularly monitor conversations and online activity
- Talk openly with your child about online behaviour, respectful communication, and how to report concerns
- Use parental controls or device settings where appropriate



Email: dothill@taw.org.uk

Website: www.dothillprimaryschool.co.uk

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At school, we will continue to educate pupils about safe and respectful use of technology. However, much of children's online activity takes place outside school hours, and your support is essential in helping to keep them safe. With this in mind, if we become aware that your child is using inappropriate apps and we believe that this poses a risk to your child, we will have to report this to Family Connect.

If you have any concerns or would like guidance on online safety, please do not hesitate to contact the school. Additional resources are also available on our website.

Thank you for your cooperation and support in promoting a safe environment for all of our pupils.

Yours sincerely

Mr. Kirkpatrick
Assistant Headteacher / Online Safety Lead



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