



HEDINGHAM SCHOOL
AND SIXTH FORM
ACHIEVEMENT & EXCELLENCE

Official Sensitive

5 March 2026

Dear Year 7 Parent/Guardian

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to share some concerns regarding the use of large WhatsApp group chats by our Year 7 pupils. While these groups can serve as a platform for communication and friendship, they also pose potential risks that we must address together.

For example:

- **Cyberbullying:** Large group chats can sometimes become a breeding ground for negative interactions. It's important to remind our pupils to be respectful and kind in all forms of communication.
- **Inappropriate Content:** There might be instances where inappropriate messages or images are shared, which can be distressing for pupils. Monitoring the conversations and encouraging open discussions can help mitigate this risk.
- **Privacy Concerns:** The sharing of personal information without consent is a potential danger in these groups. We encourage parents to talk to their children about the importance of privacy online and to only share information that they would be comfortable sharing in person.

To further support you in navigating these concerns, we have provided some resources that you may find useful:

- NSPCC - <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/social-media/chat-apps/> - helpful information on the different popular apps that are being used, including age rating and features
- Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre - (<https://www.ceop.police.uk/>) - Reporting online abuse and concerns.
- BBC Bitesize - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zc8vxg8> - How to manage school group chats? A guide for parents

We understand that these conversations can be tricky, but your involvement is key in helping our students navigate their online interactions safely. It is encouraged that parents monitor their child's use of their mobile phones.

Should you have any questions or wish to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Thank you for your continued support in keeping your child and their peers safe online.

Yours sincerely

Mr J Lockley
Head of Year 7

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