



17th November 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Owning a smart phone is an integral part of children's lives with access to social media platforms being one of the most popular ways children interact with each other outside of the school day.

As parents, many of you will be part of a "WhatsApp" group and will know how easy it is to add someone new to the group. Once in the group, your name and mobile phone number will be displayed within the group messages.

It has been brought to our attention that there are a number of Treetops and Treetops Free School students who regularly chat over WhatsApp and have created their own "WhatsApp" group.

Children are being added to the group by other students from different year groups, ranging in age from 10-16 and some of the chat discussion may not be appropriate for all group members.

As a school, we cannot stop children accessing social media platforms outside of the school day. During lessons such as PSHE, students are regularly reminded about the importance of staying safe online and how to remain appropriate within their peer groups.

We are asking parents to be aware of who your children are talking to online and try and monitor where possible, the content of chat discussions within group chats.

If you do notice any group chat that you think may be inappropriate and which involves a student from our school community, please let us know.

Yours sincerely

TLC

(sent via In Touch to all MLD @ both schools)

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CEO of Trust: Mr Paul Smith