



Friday, 10 October 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Whatsapp Group

We have recently been made aware, via another local school, of a WhatsApp group reportedly named along the lines of "Add Someone You Know," which appears to have approximately 300 members. Concerns have been raised that this group may contain inappropriate material and that both adults and children could be involved.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind all parents to continue monitoring their children's access to social media. It is important to note that if a child objects to content, the responsibility for any inappropriate material shared or posted rests with the parent, as the account holder, and the notion of privacy for the child does not remove this responsibility.

Additionally, we would like to reiterate that the school does not support, monitor, or manage WhatsApp groups that are organised around tutor or other school-based groups.

We have already been informed on one or two occasions this year, by Year 7 parents about inappropriate language or images shared in these groups. While we are always happy to support parents in addressing such concerns, the content of these groups is not the school's responsibility.

Please also note that the age limit for WhatsApp in the UK is 13, meaning that Year 7 students should not be using this platform.

The school remains committed to supporting parents in keeping children safe online. We strongly encourage you to continue monitoring your child's social media use and to have open conversations about online safety.

Best wishes

Martin Sills
Designated Safeguarding Lead
Backwell School