

29<sup>th</sup> March 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian,

## SnapChat and WhatsApp Use in Year 6

It has come to our attention that there have been numerous inappropriate conversations taking place on the social media platform Snapchat and WhatsApp between pupils, including the use of homophobic and racist language. The language used has caused upset. This has then transferred into school affecting the school day. This may also be occurring through friends of friends where it is difficult to verify exactly who the person is that children may be having conversations with. We take this matter very seriously and we have spoken to the children in Year 6 at length about online safety and the consequences of cyber bullying. We also take this opportunity to remind parents/carers that **Snapchat has an age rating of 13+ and WhatsApp an age rating of 16+, and therefore should not be used by pupils of Elmgrove Primary School and Nursery.**

If you have older children in your family, there are some safety measures that you can enable to keep your child safe and free from exposure to any inappropriate content or conversations:

Attached are leaflets from National Online Safety called 'What Parents & Carers need to know about Snapchat and WhatsApp' which I hope you will find useful.

Please also visit our 'Parent Information on Safety' page on the school website which contains links to other guides and advice on how to stay safe whilst online

<https://www.elmgrove.harrow.sch.uk/safety/parent-info/>

Thank you for your support in this matter

Yours sincerely

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