



Queen Mary's Grammar School
Headmaster: R J Langton, M A

15th February 2019

Dear Parents

I wrote to you in October regarding the inappropriate use of social media apps such as WhatsApp, Snapchat and Facebook. Unfortunately, this week Mrs Youngman and I have had to spend several hours investigating the use of WhatsApp in and out of school.

Children have been sending messages to each other in lessons, taking photographs of members of staff and other pupils and taking videos in lessons. Some of this material has been shared online using WhatsApp along with inappropriate comments aimed at other children.

We understand that there is only so much control we have on what the children access at home but we urge you to be extra vigilant of your child's use of social media in its many different and ever growing forms. Although we are constantly educating children about the importance of using the internet safely, we do not have the resources or the jurisdiction to resolve every issue that takes place out of school hours.

WhatsApp is a Social Media app designed for children aged 16+; this means that none of our children in years 7-10 should be using it; the minimum age to start using Facebook and Snapchat is 13.

The school cannot deal with inappropriate material posted on-line out of school hours, if we are made aware of such incidents, we may report in to organisations such as CEOP or the police. We will take action when children have been found to be using their phones inappropriately in school.

In order to maintain the safety of the children, it is vitally important that we work together to raise awareness and increase understanding of the potential dangers in this area. Please return the reply slip to your child's form tutor.

Yours sincerely

R. Saran
Assistant Head

✂.....
Please return reply slip to form tutor

I acknowledge receipt of the letter regarding the use of social media apps.

Pupils Name..... Form.....

Signed.....Parent/Guardian



Queen Mary's Grammar School, Sutton Road, Walsall, West Midlands, WS1 2PG
01922 720696 www.qmgs.org . enquiries@qmgs.walsall.sch.uk [@qmgs1554](https://twitter.com/qmgs1554)
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