

King Edwin Primary School



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Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to make families aware of an increasing number of friendship issues and disagreements arising from children's communication on social media and messaging platforms outside of school hours. These situations are often continuing into the school day and can have a significant impact on children's wellbeing, friendships and learning.

The platforms most commonly involved include **WhatsApp, TikTok, YouTube channels, Instagram and Snapchat**. We would like to remind parents that these platforms all have age restrictions in place, with most requiring users to be at **least 13 years old**.

Whilst we appreciate that many children are accessing these platforms, it is important that parents and carers remain aware of the potential risks associated with online communication, including misunderstandings, inappropriate language, group exclusion, upsetting comments and online bullying.

As a school, we will always take concerns regarding bullying seriously, **whether they occur during or outside school hours, and we will always try to support children and families where possible. Children's safety and emotional wellbeing remain a priority for us at all times**. However, we would also like to respectfully remind families that incidents taking place outside of school hours are, in the first instance, a parental responsibility. This includes online interactions, disagreements occurring through social media or messaging apps, as well as conflicts arising through out-of-school activities such as sports clubs, weekend events or children's parties.

Whilst we will always support where issues impact children's wellbeing or school life, we ask parents and carers to take the lead in resolving conflicts that take place outside of school hours. We strongly encourage parents and carers to communicate directly with one another where appropriate, monitor children's online activity carefully, and support children in using technology responsibly and respectfully.

How Parents Can Help Resolve Friendship Conflicts Outside of School

We understand that managing online friendships and disagreements can sometimes feel difficult. The following approaches can often help resolve issues quickly and positively before they escalate:

- *Regularly check and monitor children's online activity, including group chats, messaging apps and social media accounts.*
- *Encourage children to take a break from devices and social media if emotions are running high.*
- *Remind children not to respond immediately when upset or angry online.*
- *Support children in blocking, muting or leaving groups where communication has become unkind or inappropriate.*



- Encourage honest conversations at home about friendship issues and online behaviour.
- Communicate calmly and respectfully with other parents when necessary to resolve misunderstandings.
- Reinforce the importance of kindness, respect and empathy both online and in person.
- Report serious concerns involving threats, bullying or safeguarding issues to the relevant platforms and, where appropriate, to school.

By working together consistently and communicating openly, we can help children learn how to manage friendships respectfully, responsibly and safely both online and offline

We kindly ask all families to:

- **Monitor children's access to social media and messaging platforms.**
- **Be aware of age restrictions and online safety guidance.**
- **Encourage respectful and kind communication online.**
- **Address concerns promptly at home before situations escalate.**
- **Contact school when there are safeguarding or bullying concerns impacting a child's wellbeing.**

WORKING TOGETHER FOR RESPECTFUL ONLINE RELATIONSHIPS: A GUIDE FOR PARENTS & CARERS

CHALLENGES FROM ONLINE COMMUNICATION

- INCREASING CONFLICTS OUTSIDE SCHOOL
- CONTINUES INTO SCHOOL DAYS OR MPOF SCHOOL ENERGING
- AFFECTING LEARNING, FRIENDSHIPS, & WELLBEING

POTENTIAL RISKS FOR CHILDREN

- MISUNDERSTANDINGS
- INAPPROPRIATE LANGUAGE
- GROUP EXCLUSION
- UPSETTING COMMENTS
- ONLINE BULLYING
- ONLINE BULLYING

SCHOOL'S ROLE

- SERIOUS BULLYING TAKEN SERIOUSLY
- PRIORITIZING SAFETY & WELL-BEING
- SUPPORTING EMOTIONAL HEALTH
- CANNOT RESOLVE ALL OUT-OF-SCHOOL CONFLICTS

PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

- INCIDENTS OUTSIDE SCHOOL (Online, Sports Clubs, Parties)
- FIRST POINT OF RESPONSIBILITY
- ENCOURAGE DIRECT PARENT COMMUNICATION
- MONITOR ONLINE ACTIVITY

HOW PARENTS CAN HELP RESOLVE FRIENDSHIP CONFLICTS OUTSIDE SCHOOL

- MONITOR ONLINE ACTIVITY**
Check chats, messages, and accounts.
- ENCOURAGE BREAKS**
Take device breaks if emotions are high.
- WAIT TO RESPOND**
Do not reply immediately when upset or angry.
- MUTE OR LEAVE GROUPS**
Leave unkind or inappropriate group.
- HAVE HONEST CONVERSATIONS**
Talk openly about online behavior and friendships.
- COMMUNICATE RESPECTFULLY**
with other parents when necessary.
- REINFORCE KINDNESS**
Empathy and respect online and in person.
- REPORT SERIOUS CONCERNS**
Tell platforms or school (bullying, safeguarding).

By working together early, we build healthy relationships and responsible habits.

KINDLY ASK ALL FAMILIES TO:

- Monitor access,
- Be aware of age restrictions,
- Encourage respectful communication
- Address concerns at home,
- Contact school for genuine bullying/safeguarding concerns.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT AND PARTNERSHIP.

www.kingedwin.notts.sch.uk, 01623 822111, #KingEdwinsch

High 5 Values
Qualitative Determination Respect
Good Choices Creativity

Thank you for your continued support and partnership in helping all children maintain safe, positive and respectful relationships both in and out of school.

Yours sincerely,

Andy Callaghan-Wetton - Headteacher
King Edwin Primary School

