

# BROOMWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL



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*Together we believe. Together we achieve*

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Dear Parents and Carers,

It has come to our attention that children within Year 6 are using the social media platform Snapchat. As with any form of social media it is easy to use and children are able to access it despite being below the minimum age. The recommended age for Snapchat is 13 years but for others such as WhatsApp it is much older. It is worth nothing that although the minimum age might seem quite low for some apps, the content that the children can access may not be suitable for children under 16 years. It isn't just about the age rating, it is about the children having the maturity to handle what they come across and are able to use it appropriately. Unfortunately, when people are hiding behind a screen they say or do things that they wouldn't do face to face.

Within our school, we take online safety very seriously and we speak to the children regularly about how to stay safe, only last week they had an assembly all about e-safety. This is not just about what they post but about how they conduct themselves and to ensure that they report any online abuse they are a part of or witness. However, the pure nature of social media usage is that it happens outside of school and this is very difficult for us to manage as we are unable to monitor it but issues do get brought in to school and it is our job to respond to it when it does and we take a very firm line on it. Any issues linked to online bullying would be treated as they would in school and a fixed term exclusion would be considered. Please make sure your child is not a part of any groups online, it would seem that people can be added to groups without even giving permission.

This is where we need your help as parents. I have included a link to the common-sense media website as it gives all the information you need to know about different social media apps and how to keep your children safe. They are going to use them so we need to make sure they are using them appropriately.

<https://www.common sense media.org/blog/parents-ultimate-guide-to-snapchat>

Thank you for your support with this.

If you have any questions, or need further advice please contact school.

Many thanks

Dr. Owen and Mrs McCarthy

*Achieve, believe and succeed for a brighter future.*

