



# AYLESTONE SCHOOL

In federated partnership with Broadlands Primary  
School and Withington C.P. School

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**Executive Headteacher:** Mr S Robertson

2<sup>nd</sup> July 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

## Whatsapp Groups

As I am sure you are no doubt aware, social media is an extremely important part of the lives of our young people and is something that as adults and parents we need to ensure that they are safe at all times. With this in mind we have been informed by West Mercia police of a WhatsApp group(s) being created with hundreds of members, mostly believed to be of school/student age. It appears that members are uploading videos which contain violence, bullying, and are threatening or sexual in nature. These also include TikTok videos. At this time all those involved in the videos are unknown, as is their location across the country. The group creator is unknown and seemingly once the group reaches a certain size, they randomly allocate the admin to another member and leave the group so they can't be traced.

To ensure the safety of our young people it is vital that the Groups setting in Whatsapp is changed from the default setting which allows anyone to add a number to a group chat with permission. **To change these settings go into WhatsApp; settings; privacy; groups; 'who can add me to groups' – select 'My Contacts' only.**

Groups like this carry great risk to all for a variety of reasons, and with the summer holidays fast approaching we must ensure the safety of our young people, protecting them from the dangers that exist and from any involvement in criminal activity or anti-social behaviour.

Should you find that your child does become a victim, we would encourage you to report this to the police, leave and report the group and not interact with it in any way. Every investigation will be viewed independently; however, it should be noted that due to WhatsApps end to end encryption, it can often be difficult to secure valuable evidence.

For further information on protecting your child whilst they are online please visit our website page <https://www.aylestone.hereford.sch.uk/page/?title=E%2DSafety&pid=30>.

Kind Regards,

Mr Lewis  
Assistant Headteacher