A logo of a tree

Description automatically generated

Safeguarding Team

A close-up of a bald person

Description automatically generated A person smiling for the camera

Description automatically generated A person with long hair smiling

Description automatically generated

**Summer Term 2025 2024**

**Safeguarding Bulletin**

**Tips to keeping your child safe on WhatsApp**

1. Privacy setting - The default setting on WhatsApp is ‘everyone’ but you can help your child to set their privacy controls by clicking the ‘settings’ cog and selecting ‘privacy’
2. To prevent children being added to groups by people they don’t know, we recommend changing the group settings to ‘My contacts except’ and using the tick icon to select all contacts
3. Settings cog, select privacy, you can also switch off ‘read receipts’, which means other people cannot see when you have read their message
4. Use the safety features - Show your child how to block and report other users of the app or inappropriate content

**What is WhatsApp?**

WhatsApp is one of the most popular instant messaging apps. It allows you to send and receive messages, as well as make voice and video calls.

All you need to set up a WhatsApp account is a phone number.

The app is rated 13+ of age.

However, children and young people can easily subvert the restrictions placed on its access and be vulnerable to risks online. The NSPCC has released its own analysis about the dangers of the app. If interested, please follow the link below:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-safety-blog/2023-01-12-is-whatsapp-safe-for-my-child/>

The Safeguarding Team welcomes family and friends back to Ickburgh for the Summer term. Ickburgh Safeguarding Bulletin strives to keep parents up to date with current events and provide advice and resources.

This term we are exploring the use of WhatsApp. We would urge that parents/carers give full consideration to whether their young person is ready to use this platform, given its associated risks. This might include considering how far you will be able to support and supervise them with its use.

This bulletin is intended to support you with weighing up these risks, and to consider how to keep everyone safe if you decide your young person is ready.

***The Safeguarding Team***

**Risks of WhatsApp**

1. Unwanted contact – to contact somebody on WhatsApp, all you need is their phone number, this means that your child could be at risk of receiving unwanted messages or calls from others.
2. Pressure to respond - Features that allow other users to see when your child is online
3. Location sharing - The live location feature means that your child could reveal their current location to others.
4. Innapropriate content - WhatsApp messages are end-to-end encrypted which means that the content cannot be monitored. This means that your child could see or hear harmful or upsetting content
5. Cyberbullying - WhatsApp groups can be controlled by an ‘admin’, who can change settings, such as the name of the group, who is allowed to send messages, as well as being able to invite and remove people from the chat. This could lead to children feeling left out or being deliberately excluded or removed from groups.
6. Oversharing

Joe Sieber

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

Thamina Begum

Safeguarding Officer

Bill Webster

Designated Safeguarding Lead

**HELP AND SUPPORT**

If you are in need of urgent support, you can contact Hackney Children and Family Services’ Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub on [**MASH@hackney.gov.uk**](mailto:MASH@hackney.gov.uk) or

**02083565500**

**Pupils from other boroughs can contact:**

**02083795555** - Enfield

**0203374600** - Newham

**02073645601** or **02073645606** - Tower Hamlets

**02087083885** or **02087085897** - Redbridge

For other help feel free to contact the school - **02088064638**