



ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS C. E. (FOUNDATION) PRIMARY AND PRE-SCHOOL

Respect. Resilience. Responsibility. Confidence. Co-operation. Compassion.

15 April 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

What's App concerns identified – 'Add your contacts'

This morning, we have been notified by the Calderdale School Safeguarding Adviser, of another social media concern circulating on What's App.

This weekend, a Year 5 and 6 group set up by pupils at a local primary school has been hacked through one child's account, and its name changed to 'Add your contacts.' Sadly around 250 children over this weekend have indeed added their contacts, with the hacked account now displaying abusive material including child pornography, which is likely to have originated outside of the UK. This group account has been reported to both What's App and the Police.

As a brief reminder, the recommended minimum age to hold a What's App account in the UK is +16 years. All other popular social media accounts are +13 years.

If parents have considered the risks of a child joining social media and are still happy to take those risks, then at the very least a parent/carer should become extremely proactive around monitoring their child's mobile device and any use of social media, ensuring the deletion of any harmful content they find, and deleting any links to accounts, groups, or persons they do not know or have any concerns about.

The National Crime Agency's CEOP Safety Centre have the following useful information for parents:

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/is-my-child-ready-for-social-media/>

Yours faithfully

Mrs Berry

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