



Balksbury Federation
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Thursday 22nd May 2025

Dear Families,

It has come to our attention that there has been highly inappropriate material shared within a Year 6 WhatsApp group outside of school time. We are raising this with all Year 6 parents to ensure the safety of your children.

Although this does not fall within our jurisdiction, we have investigated. Due to the extreme nature of the material, which consists of words and images, including videos and voice notes, it has been our responsibility to report this to the police.

The federation has taken this incident very seriously and we have taken steps to support the children. We have made our specialist pastoral support team available for the children should any of them need to talk to an adult about their worries. Today, the Year 6 team will carry out ESafety lessons to repeat the core messages that have already been taught.

To reassure those parents whose children were not in the group, we have not shared any details of the content. We have made clear the expectation that they do not discuss this incident with each other but instead request to speak to an adult.

We strongly urge you to read the enclosed information about WhatsApp. Please note, WhatsApp states that creating an account for someone who is below the age of 13 is a violation of their Terms of Service.

If you have any queries or concerns after reading the leaflet enclosed, please do not hesitate to speak to a member of our Safeguarding Team who will be happy to advise and support:

- Sarah Bodinham (Designated Safeguarding Lead)
- Katy Thompson (Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead)
- Fran Farrell (Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead)
- Amy Bolton (Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead)

For further support on keeping your child safe on line, please see the ESafety page on our website under the Community tab: <https://www.balksburyfederation.co.uk/esafety-2/>

Thank you for your support,

The Leadership Team

