



St Monica's Catholic Primary School

🏠 Kelly Drive, Bootle, Liverpool, L20 9EB

☎ 0151 525 1245

✉ finance.stmonicas@schools.sefton.gov.uk

🌐 stmonicascatholicprimaryschool.co.uk

Wednesday, 10th June 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

RE: Year 6 and Online Concerns

We have been made aware of inappropriate behaviour involving some Year 6 pupils on social media platforms today, involving platforms such as WhatsApp and Snapchat. This includes children joining large group chats, some with over 40 members, including unknown children from high school. We are also aware that there may be several large Year 6 group chats currently running. The language, behaviour and content being shared in these groups is very concerning.

Year 6 can be a time when children receive their first mobile phone or begin to have greater independence online. This is exactly the right time to set clear boundaries, build positive habits and lay strong foundations for a safe digital future. We want to work in partnership with you to ensure that your children's safety, wellbeing and behaviour remain our shared priority.

WhatsApp and Snapchat both state that users should be at least 13 years old. Year 6 pupils are below this age and still need close adult support to understand the responsibility, risks and consequences of their online actions.

What we do here at St Monica's:

- I will personally address instances of online misbehaviour and bullying that are brought to the school's attention and impact pupils' safety, wellbeing or school life.
- We have a strong online safety curriculum embedded throughout the school.
- This year, we have invited Merseyside Police and Bully Busters into school to talk to our Junior School about online safety.
- There will be an additional e-safety lesson next week for Year 6, in which classes will draw up an online safety contract for each child to sign.
- Consequences for online misbehaviour may include suspension, and I will contact the police if an incident is deemed serious enough, as I cannot ensure a child's safety outside of school. Let's keep your child and other children safe.

- We will ensure that any children who are the victim of bullying or negative comments will be supported in school.

What can you do at home?

- Consider removing social media apps from your child's phone (if they have one) until they are at least 13 years old.
- If your child is an admin in a group, talk to them about the dangers of being in control of a group that has so many children in that they cannot control.
- Consider removing groups with children you are not familiar with on all platforms, including gaming consoles.
- Check all messages and groups daily to see if anything mean or inappropriate has been said in single messages or group chats.
- Continue to build an honest relationship with your child, encouraging them to tell you about any negative behaviours they experience or witness on digital devices.
- If you find anything inappropriate through conversations or monitoring, please screenshot the messages and email them to us at safeguarding.stmonicas@schools.sefton.gov.uk.
- Check the privacy settings on all apps to help keep your child safe.
- If you have any concerns about your child, please do not hesitate to book a meeting with me. You can also bring in a phone, messages or screenshots so we can look at the issue together.

We have seen time and time again the negative impact that social media and the digital world can have on children. Social media can be addictive, and it can quickly lead to anger, upset or poor decision making. One of the strongest protective factors is children knowing that their parents and carers are checking, monitoring and talking to them regularly about their online behaviour.

Please take some time to read this letter with your child tonight and discuss your arrangements at home. Set a regular routine for checking your child's phone, messages, apps and gaming platforms, including asking about any deleted or edited messages. Please monitor group chats carefully and report any concerns about your child, or others in the group, directly to me.

I know we all share the same priority of keeping our children safe online, and I understand how distressing it can be for parents when their child sends or receives an unkind or inappropriate message. Fortunately, we have fewer online incidents than many schools, and I am determined to work with you to keep it that way.

Yours sincerely, *Mr J. Gouldbourne*, Headteacher