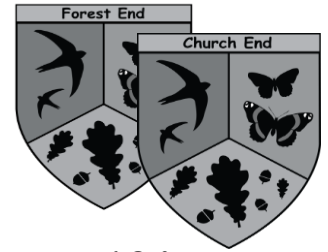


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Value of the Month: Patience

Dear Parent/ Carer,

12th May 2022

Online Safety - Group Chats



What are Group Chats?

Occurring through messaging apps, on social media and in online games, group chats are among the most popular ways that young people engage with their peers online. Involving, by definition, three or more individuals, these groups allow users to send messages, images and videos to everyone in one place. While they are useful for helping friends, people with shared interests or members of a club to communicate and coordinate activities, they can also leave young people feeling excluded and bullied - as well as providing opportunities for inappropriate content to be shared and viewed. A guide for parents about Group Chats from National Online Safety can be found at <https://nationalonlinesafety.com/hub/view/guide/group-chats>

A risk for children and young people using chat apps is being added to group chats where they don't know the other people in the group, which could increase the chance they come across upsetting or negative messages.

Many of the chat apps have different privacy settings to help restrict who can contact you. If your child is using a chat app, it is recommend that parents look at the privacy settings to see what is most appropriate. It is recommended that if there are not restrictions available that your child does not use the chat app.

Visit <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/social-media/chat-apps/> for more information on safety settings in Chat apps.

Further safeguarding information can be found on our school website <https://www.churchendlower.co.uk/safeguarding/>

Yours Sincerely

Mrs A Watts

Head of School & Designated Safeguarding Lead

I am a Domestic Abuse Responder, you can talk to me about Domestic Abuse



