



Porters Grange Primary School & Nursery

Part of the Portico Academy Trust

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PORTICO
ACADEMY TRUST

opening doors, unlocking potential

CEO - Mrs C. Woolf

Monday 23rd January 2023

Dear Parents,

I am writing to you in relation to a number of friendship difficulties some of our children have been experiencing online, specifically through the use of smart phones.

As adults we are all aware of the difficulties that can be presented by using social media; for young children these difficulties are likely to be considerably greater. When adults give their child a smart phone with access to social media sites such as WhatsApp, TikTok and YouTube, they are potentially opening them up to the significant dangers of inappropriate content and online harassment. Unfortunately social media often brings out the worst in people.

Sadly we are increasingly dealing with friendship issues which occur online. When investigating, we find that children are sending very large numbers of messages late into the night and with little or no adult supervision. This is the perfect breeding ground for friendship issues.

We understand that there is huge pressure on parents from their children to have a mobile phone. They will often say that all the other children have them. This is certainly not the case. We all know as parents that nothing is more important than keeping our children safe. In some ways it is probably harder now than ever before because of the challenges facing this generation through social media and online harassment.

Things to consider:

- 1) If you decide your child needs a phone, consider whether it needs internet access. Is this something you would rather control while your child is at home?
- 2) If you want them to have a smart phone, limit their time. It is unhealthy for their development to spend long periods of time in the evening on messaging apps.
- 3) Regularly look at their phone. Make sure that they know that this is part of the deal. If you allow them to send messages, are you in a position to monitor them? It is for their protection.
- 4) Use parental controls to limit what they can access and for how long they can do it.

We take online safety very seriously at Porters Grange and we teach the children how to keep themselves safe in every year group. However, we can only achieve this in partnership with parents and carers.

Thank you for reading this and please ask if you need any advice. I cannot stress enough the importance of visiting our online safety talk in the summer term with The 2 Johns on Wednesday 21st June. It provides much food for thought as well as essential up to date information on keeping our children safe. What could be more important?

Kind regards,

Mr M Aggus
Vice Principal

We are a **good** school in all areas

"The school's work to promote pupils' personal development and welfare is Outstanding"

