

14th September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

Guidance for Parent/ Carer WhatsApp Groups

Current technological advances allow us to be increasingly more involved in our children's education. Parent/ Carer WhatsApp groups allow parents and carers to stay in contact with other parents and exchange opinions and knowledge. Aside from all of the advantages, parent/carers WhatsApp groups can also bring various issues if not used in the right manner.

How to use parent/ carer WhatsApp groups in the right manner?

In the case of parent/ carer Whatsapp groups, the most important recommendations are:

- Always exercise tolerance.
- Express ideas clearly, accurately and avoid 'gossip or hear-say'
- Cooperate with all parents in the group.
- Use them as a query tool.
- Always respect teachers and staff.
- Do not use them as a substitute for your presence at school.

- **Always exercise tolerance**

Just like our children's classes, parent/ carer WhatsApp groups consist of people who may have different beliefs, nationalities, ideas, and traditions. It is vital to be tolerant of everyone.

- **Express ideas clearly, accurately and avoid 'gossip or hear-say'**

Communication is not always easy when we are part of a large group, and it is even more difficult when it comes to written communication. Therefore, people should communicate clearly and efficiently to create a positive environment.

- **Cooperate with all parents in the group**

Parent/ carer WhatsApp groups can be useful tools, but only if the members agree on their objectives and work together towards them.

- **Use them as a query tool**

Sometimes we may forget about an event, class activity or other important information. When this happens, parent/ carer WhatsApp groups are a fundamental tool to help keep us up to date.

- **Always respect teachers and staff**

Parent/ carer WhatsApp groups should never fulfill the need to complain about teachers or staff. If you do this, it's very possible that rumors can spread unnecessarily and you may create some damaging consequences. Communication can become more difficult. This communication is imperative for your child's education.

If you have any issues, the best thing to do is to speak privately to the class teacher. This way, you can find a solution to the problem instead of creating any conflict.

Never comment about another child or create unfounded gossip. Always use language carefully so that things are not misinterpreted by others.

- **Do not use them as a substitute for your presence at school**

When you speak with other parents daily, it is easy to feel like you're involved in your child's education. But the **most effective way to be involved in this process is to have a parent-teacher meeting**. As much as technology advances, chat groups will never substitute these meetings.

Therefore, whenever you can, **request a meeting with your child's teacher**. This way, you will be able to know what things you can do to help your child's education.

If you have any questions regarding the use of social media or WhatsApp please see our Computing Lead, Mrs Charalambous.

Thank you for your supporting our school ethos and values as always.

Best wishes and kind regards.

Mr Chris Tofallis
Head Teacher

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