



Hillstone Primary School

Head Teacher Mr J. King

Deputy Head Mrs V. Chudleigh

12th December 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been brought to my attention that a large amount of pupils in year 6 at Hillstone are in a number of Snap Chat groups where very inappropriate content is being shared. I have witnessed this on a number of phones (after parents and pupils have asked me to look).

The children are sharing voice notes and text messages that include offensive sexist, racist and extremely violent language, with highly inappropriate words being used – some of it is really shocking.

Some pupils are also sharing pictures and photos that are highly inappropriate and contain images that 10 and 11 year old children should not be witnessing; including pictures with sexual content.

Please do not think 'it would not be my child' – many pupils were added to groups without knowing at first, but then chose to remain in the groups without commenting. They still could witness the awful content. Even if your child is not sending these personally, they are part of the process of sharing them if they are in the same group.

I have talked several times about the fact that pupils of primary school age are not old enough to be on social media apps such as Snap Chat – this illustrates why.

I am asking that you regularly check the children's phones for this type of content please and talk to them about what is inappropriate. Ideally, I would like SnapChat removed from the phones altogether. I also ask parents or pupils to tell me as soon as inappropriate things are shared.

As I have witnessed the pupils who were sending these inappropriate messages and pictures, their names, along with screenshots have been recorded on our Safeguarding system, should any evidence be needed in future.

The children are aware this has been brought to my attention, so will have had the opportunity to delete any evidence before they get home – but please do talk to them about it and ask them to show you.

Thank you,

Mr Jason King
Head Teacher
Hillstone School

