



## St Barnabas and St Philip's CE Primary School

### Parental Social Media Groups – Guidance

Social media platforms, particularly WhatsApp, have become a common way for parents to connect, share advice, and offer one another peer support. At St Barnabas and St Philip's, we recognise the value these groups can provide when used positively and respectfully. These groups are typically set up and managed by parents, often coordinated by PTA Year Group Representatives.

The school does not use WhatsApp as a means of official communication. All school-related queries, concerns or updates must be communicated through the appropriate channels: email, telephone, or in-person meetings arranged via the school office.

This guidance has been developed to support parents in ensuring WhatsApp and other social platforms remain a safe, respectful and constructive space for communication.

#### Code of Conduct: Use of Parent WhatsApp Groups

To maintain a positive atmosphere and uphold the school's Christian values, we ask all parents to follow the expectations below:

#### 1. Respectful and Supportive Communication

- **Always use respectful language.** Discussions should be kind, thoughtful and inclusive, even when addressing concerns or frustrations.
- **Avoid gossip or speculation.** Do not share unverified information about pupils, staff or other families.
- **Keep it constructive.** Focus on solving problems or seeking clarification, rather than airing grievances.
- **Maintain a positive tone.** Celebrate successes and support one another through challenges.
- **Stick to the group's purpose.** Posts should be relevant to school life and class activities.

#### 2. Confidentiality and Privacy

- Do not share **confidential or sensitive information** about any child, member of staff or family.
- Avoid naming children or parents in relation to incidents or concerns.
- For private or sensitive matters, **message individuals directly** rather than posting in the group.
- **Never share photos or videos** of children without the explicit consent of all parents whose children appear in the content.

### **3. Group Etiquette and Boundaries**

- **Reflect the school's ethos.** Interactions should demonstrate the values of compassion, respect and community.
- WhatsApp is **not** the correct platform for complaints, urgent issues or safeguarding matters. These must be addressed directly with the school.
- Be aware that children may see messages. **Model respectful digital behaviour.**
- **Year Reps** are volunteers and act only as facilitators for the group. They are not school representatives and should not be expected to resolve disputes or pass on concerns to staff.

### **4. Safeguarding**

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. If you see or read anything in a WhatsApp group that causes you concern regarding the safety or welfare of a child, report it directly to the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) without delay. The school will act in line with its safeguarding policies.

#### **Disclaimer**

Please be aware that parent WhatsApp groups are not monitored or managed by St Barnabas and St Philip's CE Primary School. While we encourage positive collaboration among parents, the school is not responsible for content shared in these forums. However, should any posts breach safeguarding expectations, school policy or bring the school into disrepute, we reserve the right to take appropriate action.

**Miss Rebecca Timms**  
**Headteacher**