

Beam County Primary School Oval Road North, Dagenham, Essex, RM10 9ED.

28th January 2025

Dear Year 6 Parents/Carers,

It has come to our attention that some Year 6 pupils are participating in group chats on WhatsApp. While these platforms can be a great way for children to connect, they also pose certain risks if not used responsibly.

To help ensure your child stays safe on WhatsApp, we strongly encourage you to visit the following link for guidance from the NSPCC: <u>Is WhatsApp Safe for My Child?</u>. NB the age was reduced from 16 to 13 in the UK and EU in 2024.

We ask that you monitor the messages your child sends and receives and have an open conversation with them about online safety. In school, we have discussed topics such as staying safe online, the dangers of sharing or viewing inappropriate material, and how such actions can erode trust among peers and family, potentially damaging relationships.

To further support online safety, workshops have been conducted in school to equip pupils and parents with the knowledge and tools they need. If you feel a specific area requires additional focus or a tailored workshop, please let us know.

Lastly, if you have any concerns about the online behaviour of another pupil, we encourage you to contact the school directly at **020 8270 4700** or email us at **office@beam.bardaglea.org.uk** so that we can address the matter appropriately.

Thank you for your continued support in ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all our pupils.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Whittington Headteacher

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