



Garfield Primary
Today's children tomorrow's future

18.01.23

Dear Parents and Carers,

Children's use of smart phones and electronic devices

Many children now have access to or have their own smart phone. At times, these devices can have very beneficial, entertaining and educational uses such as taking a video at a family event, playing games or looking up facts on Google. However, smart phones use has also been linked to the various problems in some children's lives such as mental health concerns, concentration issues at school and incidents of bullying and abuse.

The school strongly recommends that children should not be on social media apps such as WhatsApp, Instagram, Snapchat or TikTok. All these apps have an age limit of 12 or 13, making them unsuitable for primary school pupils. Children of 10 and 11 or younger find these group messaging or discussion forums very difficult to deal with emotionally and these apps are often connected to incidents of on-line bullying or abuse. We recommend that you check your child's phone regularly to see if the apps they are using are appropriate.

The school also strongly recommends that parents do not allow children to use their phones in bed in the evening or at night-time. Many children, including children in year 5 and 6 at Garfield, find it difficult to regulate their use of their phones at night and end up tired and unable to learn effectively the next day at school.

As part of our e-safety curriculum at Garfield, we regularly talk to the children about these issues to help them understand the positive and negative effects of smart phones and, in particular, the use of social media.

Please help us with this by talking to your child about their smart phone use and the school's recommendations. This will help them to use these devices in as safe and healthy a way as possible.

If any parent has any questions or concerns about their child's smart phone use, feel free to get in contact with the school to discuss these issues further.

Many thanks,

Ms M Gabruk (Assistant Head Teacher)

Please return this slip to the class teacher.

I acknowledge that I have read this letter and have spoken to my child about this matter.

Name _____

Parent Signature _____