



Hartshorne C of E Primary School

Main Street, Hartshorne, Derbyshire, DE11 7ES Tel: 01283 217423
Headteacher: Mrs Sarah Layhe-Humphreys

Inclusivity & Respect
Nurture
Aspiration & Hope
Curiosity
Generosity
Trust

Subject: Online Conduct and Safety

Dear Parents,

3 June 2026

We are writing to make you aware of serious concerns regarding a WhatsApp group involving some of our Year 6 pupils, including your child. It has come to our attention that conversations within this group have included language and content that could be considered bullying, discriminatory, abusive, and in some cases, references to animal cruelty. There have also been inappropriate comments made about other children and members of staff.

We want to be absolutely clear that this behaviour is not acceptable and does not reflect the values we uphold as a Church of England school. Our school is rooted in principles of kindness, inclusivity, trust and respect and we expect all members of our school community to demonstrate these in their actions, both in school and online.

Such behaviour is also inconsistent with:

- Fundamental British Values, including mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs
- Protected Characteristics under the Equality Act (such as race, religion, gender, disability and sexual orientation)

We must stress that some of the content reported may go beyond school sanctions. In certain circumstances, messages of this nature could be considered harassment, hate-related communication, or malicious communications, which may be referred to the police.

We kindly but firmly ask all parents and carers to:

- Check your child's phone and social media use regularly
- Discuss appropriate online behaviour and digital responsibility with your child
- Reinforce the importance of treating others with respect at all times

As a school, we will continue to address this matter in line with our safeguarding and behaviour policies, and we will work with children to help them understand the seriousness of their actions and how to make better choices moving forward.

We appreciate your support in helping us ensure that all children feel safe, respected, and valued both in school and in their wider interactions.

If you have any concerns or would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

“God’s family, growing together, inspiring our world.”

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sarah Layhe-Humphreys', written in a cursive style.

Sarah Layhe-Humphreys
Headteacher