

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2017

Dear Parent/ carer,

As a school we have noticed an increase in issues involving the use of the internet, particularly social media such as Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp and YouTube. This is a difficult area for us a school to monitor and as such we need your help in making us aware of any issues.

As always, we encourage children and parents to talk to a member of staff about any issues. However, we realise this isn't always possible. Therefore next week we will be launching **Whisper** on our school website, an anonymous reporting service for pupils, families and the local community. It allows you to send a message or text about any **online issues** to a confidential school email account where staff experienced in responding to issues will receive it.

### How does it work?



Clicking on the **Whisper** link on our school website will take you to an online form where you can leave your message. You can choose to send it anonymously or, if you want us to get back to you, you can leave your contact details. **Whisper** does not collect any information to identify a sender unless they choose to leave it.

### What sort of issues should be reported?

- Inappropriate use of / comments on Facebook groups relating to the school.
- Comments about specific children or parents on social media groups.
- Unkind use of social media by pupils.
- Bullying behaviour online.
- Inappropriate use of visual media (YouTube/ Instagram etc) by pupils.
- Any other **internet based** issue.

### What happens next?

Over the next few weeks we will be discussing **Whisper** with the children as part of our wider safeguarding education programme. We will discuss: how, why and when to use it. How it can provide a useful route for them to help safeguard themselves, their friends or the wider school community.

Whisper is active from today on our school website. The link can be found under **useful links**.

If you have any questions about the service, please ask your child's class teacher.

We thank you for your continued support and comments. With that support, we are confident we can build a positive school community in which you, and your family play such an important and valuable role.

Many thanks

Steph Collings (Computing leader) & Janet Hoyle (Headteacher)