

SWINDON VILLAGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Head Teacher: Mr G Mills BA Hons (QTS), NPQH

16th October 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have received information from parents today that a number of SVPS children have been invited to a WhatsApp group containing inappropriate and illegal content. This prompt contact has helped us to act quickly to support and safeguard SVPS children (all children in Y5 and Y6 have been spoken to today). We have also contacted the Police and they are investigating. If your child has been added to this group, please contact the police either online or by phone quoting incident number 133.

We are aware that this WhatsApp group contains children from SVPS and also children from other schools, but the group could also contain other unknown individuals.

Whilst investigations by the police are ongoing, we would like to take the opportunity to remind you of some key messages regarding online safety:

- Firstly, ask yourself this question, 'Does my child need a smart phone/mobile phone yet?' If the answer is yes then...
 - Please take this opportunity to have a conversation with your child about their online activity, and if there is anything they have seen that they are concerned about.
 - Take a moment to review your child's privacy settings in their apps. For example, in WhatsApp you can choose who can add you to new groups, we recommend choosing "My Contacts" so that strangers can't add them to groups.
 - Daily checks of your child's devices are now becoming more and more important as parents.
 - Try to not let your child have access to a device overnight in their bedrooms – good sleep is so important to have a healthy next day.

For more guidance on digital parenting, please visit: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/> or <https://www.vodafone.co.uk/newscentre/smart-living/digital-parenting/>

You can also find the detail on how to review privacy settings in WhatsApp here:

https://faq.whatsapp.com/143990998547188/?helpref=hc_fnav&cms_platform=android

Please contact the school if you have any concerns or questions regarding this.

Yours sincerely

Geraint Mills
Head Teacher

Learning from each other – achieving together

