



# HOVE JUNIOR SCHOOL

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15<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

## Year 5: Our Duty of Care regarding Digital Messaging

One of the issues that increasingly arises in children's time with our learning mentor, in class and playground discussions, is that of digital messaging. More and more children are telling us that they are in messaging groups which are causing upset and distress in and out of school.

This is now taking up a lot of learning time resolving problems. Please can I remind Parents/Carers that you must be at least 13 years old to use social media messaging groups and to monitor even simple text messaging communication. **WhatsApp have raised their age limit to 16 years of age.**

We know it can be really difficult to monitor what our children are using on their mobile devices, especially as they may have access at other children's houses or because of peer pressure, but we feel strongly that it is incumbent on us all to be increasingly vigilant against the 'normalisation' of this kind of messaging and material affecting our children's lives.

We have continued to support parents with e-safety advice and guidelines, which is also available on our website.

Complaints of cyberbullying are dealt with in accordance with our Anti-Bullying Policy. Complaints related to child protection are dealt with in accordance with school's child protection procedures. Sanctions available include:

- Informing Parents or Carers
- Removal of internet or computer access for a period
- Referral to police if required

If you would like to discuss any aspect of this then please talk to your child's class teacher or a member of SLT.

Many thanks,

*Madeline Southern*

**Mrs Maddie Southern**  
Headteacher



Hove Junior School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.