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Dear Parent/Carer

Year 7 WhatsApp group

I hope this message finds you well. I am reaching out to discuss an important issue that has recently come to our attention concerning the use of WhatsApp groups among our Year 7 students.

While these groups can serve as a valuable means of communication, we have received reports of troubling content being shared, including offensive, misogynistic, and even racist messages. Unfortunately, some of these groups are affecting students in school, making them feel uncomfortable and, in some cases, leading to a desire to stay at home. This is a serious concern that we must address collectively.

It is also important to note that the age limit for most social media platforms, including WhatsApp, Snapchat, and Instagram, is set at 13 years old. As many of our Year 7 students may not meet this age requirement, we encourage you to monitor their use of these platforms to ensure they are engaging with content appropriate for their age.

We ask that you take a moment to check your child's phone and discuss the content they are engaging with on WhatsApp. Open communication about what they see and share online can help foster a safe and respectful environment for all. Additionally, remind your child that they have the ability to block and delete groups if they feel uncomfortable with the content being shared.

For further advice on keeping your child safe online, please visit [NSPCC Online Safety](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/online-safety/).

If you have any concerns or need guidance on how to approach this topic, please do not hesitate to contact the pastoral team on pastoralteam@looea.net.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully

Adam Saberton
Head of Year 7 and 8