



Theme of the half term:

Cyberbullying, Digital Drama & Hate Speech

This half term the children will be learning about cyberbullying, digital drama and hate speech. The lessons which they will take part in will support them in how to deal with relationships online.

What is Cyberbullying?

This is a type of bullying which occurs on the internet via electronic devices. At SJA, we always say STOP (several times on purpose) to check if something we believe is bullying, really is.

This can include:

- Sending someone upsetting or threatening messages either through email, direct messages (DMs), group messages or text messages.
- Hacking into someone's online account.
- Being rude or nasty to someone whilst playing games online.
- Posting private or embarrassing photos online or sending them to others.
- Creating fake social media accounts that mock someone or trick them.
- Excluding someone from an online conversation or blocking them for no reason.

How can I protect my child from cyberbullying?

Have clear rules about interacting online.

Talk about which private information should **not** be shared. This includes full name, date of birth, gender, home address. School name and any family members' names.

Set limits and supervise online activities closely, while still supporting your child as they become more independent.

Choose high-quality, age-appropriate entertainment.

Explain to your child what cyberbullying is

Practice respectful communication and boundaries.

If they think they're being bullied, make sure they are confident to talk to a trusted adult.

WhatsApp Support for Parents



POTENTIAL CYBERBULLYING

Group chat and video calls are great for connecting with multiple people in WhatsApp, but there is always the potential for someone's feelings to be hurt by an unkind comment or joke. The 'only admins' feature gives the admin(s) of a group control over who can send messages. They can, for example, block people from posting in a chat, which could make a child feel excluded and upset.



CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

To start a WhatsApp chat, you only need the mobile number of the person you want to message (the other person also needs to have the app). WhatsApp can access the address book on someone's device and recognise which of their contacts also use the app. So if your child has ever given their phone number to someone they don't know, that person could use it to contact them via WhatsApp.



EXPLAIN ABOUT BLOCKING

If your child receives spam or offensive messages, calls or files from a contact, they should block them using 'settings' in the chat. Communication from a blocked contact won't show up on their device and stays undelivered. Blocking someone does not remove them from your child's contact list – so they also need to be deleted from the address book.



For the full parents' guide to WhatsApp please visit:

<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/hub/view/guide/whatsapp-2022>