

HOLYWELL SCHOOL

Red Lion Close, Cranfield, Bedfordshire MK43 0JA

Tel: 01234 750381

Email: school@holywellschool.co.uk

Website: www.holywellschool.co.uk



THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
DIOCESE OF
ST ALBANS



*A Church of England School
providing a Values Based Education*

25th September 2023

Dear Parent / Carer,

We are writing today to seek your support in keeping your child/children safe online. Over the last few days, there have been a number of incidents outside of school hours related to the misuse of social media, especially WhatsApp. A number of students from across all year groups have been found to be part of chat groups, and, in the latest incident, using extremely inappropriate language and offensive comments. Many of these group chats are not private and this allows anyone to access the content. It has been discovered that several groups have also included unknown members. This is very concerning and, in spite of all the work we have done with students in school on e-safety and responsible use of social media, some students are exposing themselves to serious safeguarding risks.

The minimum age for a WhatsApp account is 16 or over – Holywell students should not be using WhatsApp as they are under this age. Please monitor what your child is accessing, using and viewing online; they should be reminded that they must tell you if they receive anything inappropriate from any application. As a school, we strongly discourage student chat groups and we respectfully advise that any use of WhatsApp is family-centred and monitored by parents/carers.

Please note that, whilst we will continue to support families in keeping everyone safe, it is not our direct remit to intervene in external matters relating to social media unless there is something directly related to an issue in school. You can report harassment, malicious messaging or distribution of private sexual images without consent online via Safe Internet UK (<https://saferinternet.org.uk/report-harmful-content>) or via the Police (online or via 101).

Please see some guidance on the next page for how to stop your child from being added to various WhatsApp groups.

Many thanks for your continued support,

MG Simpson

Mr MG Simpson
Headteacher



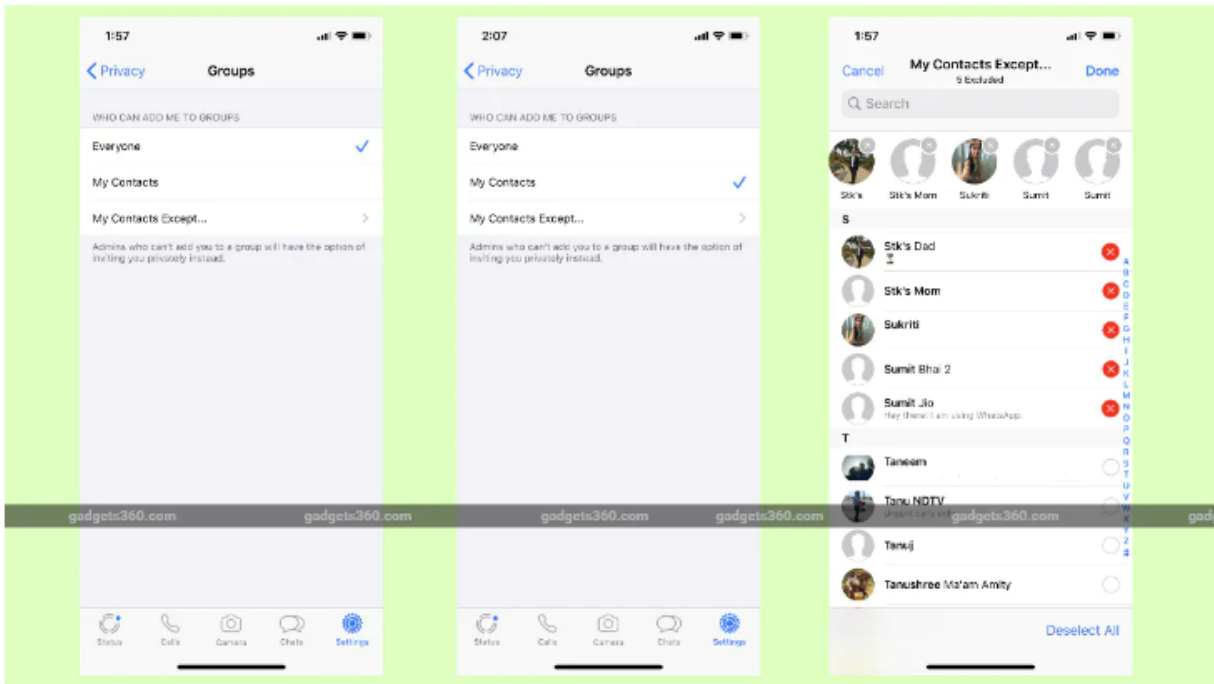
Headteacher: Mr MG Simpson MA, NPQH

Deputy Headteacher: Mr S Van Der Merwe – Deputy Headteacher: Miss A Stewart – Deputy Headteacher: Miss A Craddock

Designated Safeguarding Leads: Miss A Stewart & Mrs J Johnson

Senior Leaders: Mr M Eames & Mrs J French – SENDCo: Miss A Stepney

Operated by Holywell Church of England Academy, Registered in England, Company Number 08224216



WhatsApp for iPhone group privacy settings can be found in Settings > Account > Privacy > Groups

Advertisement



Also See

- ★ Deleted WhatsApp Messages? You Can Recover Them Using This Method

1. Open **WhatsApp** on your iPhone and on the bottom bar, tap **Settings**.
2. Next, tap **Account > Privacy > Groups**.
3. On the next screen, select one of the three given options — **Everyone**, **My Contacts** and **My Contacts Except**. Over here as well you can select contacts one by one or you can just select all the contacts by tapping the **Select All** button on the bottom-right.