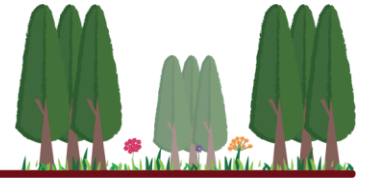




Loxdale Primary School

'We Grow Together'



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Tuesday 17th March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have recently been made aware of some new safety features introduced by WhatsApp that may be useful for families, particularly as we know many children start using messaging apps before the recommended age of 13, often to keep in touch with family or friends. WhatsApp has now introduced parent-managed accounts for children under 13. These new tools are designed to give parents greater control and oversight while still allowing children to communicate safely with people they know.

Parents and carers can now set up and supervise a child's WhatsApp account directly from their own device. This includes the ability to manage:

- Who can contact your child through calls or messages
- Which features your child can use (e.g., status updates, disappearing messages, view-once photos/videos, location sharing, linked devices)
- Group chat permissions, including approving or declining invitations
- Privacy settings, such as who can see your child's profile information and who can add them to groups

These accounts are built with safety in mind. Many advanced features are automatically switched off for younger users, and any changes to settings require a secure parent PIN. As a school, we always encourage open, positive conversations at home about online safety, responsible communication and respectful behaviour online. These new WhatsApp controls may be a helpful addition to your family's approach to keeping children safe on digital platforms.

If you would like support with setting up a parent-managed account, WhatsApp provides clear step-by-step guidance within the app.

Thank you for your continued support in helping to keep our children safe online.



Yours sincerely,

Mr Corns
(Computing and Online Safety Lead)

