

SOUTHEND HIGH SCHOOL FOR BOYS

ACADEMY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Prittlewell Chase, Southend-on-Sea, Essex, SS0 0RG
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Headteacher: Mrs R V Worth



24th September 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

Use of Social Media

I wanted to make you aware of a matter that has recently come to our attention. A very large WhatsApp group (or community), involving over one hundred Year 7 students from both SHSB and SHSG, has been created.

While many students will see this as harmless, we have significant concerns about the size and nature of such groups:

- **Sharing of photos and videos:** Some students have already been sharing images of themselves, both at home and in school. Once shared, these can be copied, altered, or distributed without their consent.
- **Lack of privacy:** With such a large number of members, children cannot be sure who is in the group or how the content they post might be used.
- **Potential for unkind behaviour:** Large online groups can quickly become unmanageable, leading to unkind comments, exclusion, or arguments.
- **Digital footprint:** What children share online may stay online indefinitely, even if they later delete it.

If your child is part of the group, please be aware that WhatsApp is intended for users aged 13 and above. Large groups such as this are not an appropriate space for younger students, and we would encourage you to discuss with your child whether they really need to be in it. Smaller, more manageable chats with close friends are usually a far safer and more positive way to keep in touch.

We ask that you continue to monitor your child's use of WhatsApp and other social media platforms, and talk with them about how to use these responsibly. Although group chats can sometimes be a way for students to connect socially, the size of this group in particular raises safeguarding concerns.

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

Yours sincerely

Mr W Imbush
Leader of Year 7

