

Aberford Church of England Primary School

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Headteacher – Philippa Boulding

Dear Parent/Carers

There have been reports in the media about an e-safety incident involving primary age children from Leeds. This incident did not take place in a school or through an ‘app’ approved by a school, but was reported to a school by concerned parents.  The incident is now being investigated by West Yorkshire Police.

 This has highlighted a number of safeguarding issues about smartphone ‘apps’ including [Live.ly](http://Live.ly), ooVoo, and [music.ly](http://music.ly) amongst others.  These apps are only supposed to be able to access contacts on the user’s phones, but it appears that quite quickly unknown individuals are able to join group chats. Therefore, these apps are **not safe for children to use** as there is a significant risk of inappropriate contact by unknown individuals.

Advice is for parents to ensure that children do not have access to such apps on their phone and to check that all appropriate privacy settings are switched on to make sure that children are protected when using any internet site. If a child experiences or expresses concerns about online activity, it must be reported to the police using 101 and <https://ceop.police.uk/ceop-reporting/>.  Wherever possible, a screen shot or a mobile phone picture of the concern should be taken for reporting purposes.

There is some useful information on the LSCB website about online safety with some useful tips for parents here <http://www.leedslscb.org.uk/Parents-Carers-Wider-Family/Keeping-children-safe-online>

 We hope this information is useful.

Kind regards

Philippa Boulding

Headteacher