



HILL VIEW PRIMARY ACADEMY

Headteacher: Victoria Buckland
Deputy Headteachers: Jo Smith & Michael Hall

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Dear Parents and Carers of Year 5 children

As part of our continued monitoring of online safeguarding, I am writing to inform you about concerns raised by Hill View parents regarding the inappropriate content made by Year 5 using the Toca Boca app and then being shared with other Year 5 children through WhatsApp.

While Toca Boca is advertised as an age-appropriate site for primary-aged children, it has been reportedly used to create inappropriate content and language, including teenage pregnancy (and shutting a baby away in a room) and children getting caught by parents on a first date.

Please could we advise:

- that you make it a habit to check your children's electronic devices (including phones) regularly and that it is part of the agreement that you have with your child so they can continue to use it/while you pay their bill.
- that you do not allow your child to access apps or messaging services that are not age appropriate (e.g. WhatsApp, Snapchat, Instagram, TikTok, Telegram, YouTube etc.) as many of these sites are used to promote, communicate about and glamourise Child Exploitation, particularly around County Lines, gangs and drug culture.
- WhatsApp groups can be formed by others and your child may receive content of which you may not be aware and they may not want.

Please continue to get in touch if you are concerned about online content – we will always try to support children and families in dealing with these issues.

Kind regards
Jo Smith
Deputy Headteacher