

~WELCOME BACK~

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am delighted to be back at St Saviours this half term, meeting new students and not so new students. I had a wonderful time on my sabbatical, taking a retreat, catching up with some research, and being able to participate in volunteering activities in Mosumo, in northern Tanzania. I am so grateful for the support and encouragement I received from students, staff and parents, and am now refreshed and ready for this new academic year.

We've welcomed new staff and had a jam packed start to the year. There have been lots of trips and events, and as I write the year 7 are all thoroughly enjoying their outward bound experience in the beautiful Lake District. Our new 7 students have settled down incredibly well, and are already very much a part of the community. New year 12 students have fitted in seamlessly and year 11 are embracing the challenges of 'GCSE' year.

This year's musical production will be 'Oliver!' and rehearsals have already begun. We've had our first two parents events, welcomed old girls back to school for their AGM, celebrated 'languages week' and marked Black History Month across three weeks. We are looking forward to the half term break and to all the activity of the next half term. I hope you enjoy this newsletter and seeing some of the activity from this half term, and I wish you all a restful and refreshing half term. And, finally I am delighted to introduce the new editorial team. I know they are going to do an amazing job.

Best wishes,
Catherine May

New Editorial Team!



Tyra Awuku



Michal Daniel



Gabriela Arnold

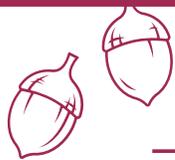


Zoe Madu

Hello everyone! We're excited to announce that we'll be taking over the St Saviour's and St Olave's School Newsletter. Stay tuned for our exciting new updates!

Important Dates for Parents, Carers & Students:

- Year 11 mocks
4th November - 15th November
- Awards Evening
21st November
- Inset day
22nd November
- Sixth Form Mocks
25th November - 29th November
- PSHCE day
5th December
- Carol service
10th December
- Christmas Lunch
19th December
- End of term
20th December
- Inset Day
6th January 2025



Harvest Festival

We recently celebrated a wonderful Harvest assembly, where our school community came together to share from our abundance. It was a joyous occasion filled with worship, as students from all year groups proudly brought forward their donations. The generous contributions resulted in an impressive display of food, showcasing the kindness of our children and their families.



This year, we donated to Manna Society and Southwark Bank, and it was truly uplifting to witness such generosity in action. It was a special privilege for me to lead the Harvest assembly as my first event as the new Chaplain.

As the Chaplain at St. Saviour's and St. Olave's School, I am here to offer support and a listening ear to our students, providing a safe space for them to share any questions they may have about life and faith.

Looking ahead, we are excitedly preparing for our Carol Service, scheduled for December 10th. This event will be a wonderful opportunity for our school community to come together outside of the classroom and enjoy a beautiful procession as we celebrate Advent.



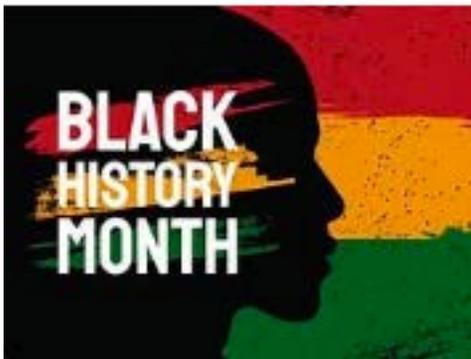
Black History Month

This October, we celebrated Black History Month with the official theme "Reclaiming Narratives," a powerful call to acknowledge and honor the stories of individuals and events that have profoundly shaped history, both past and present. Throughout the month, students engaged in a variety of activities and competitions designed to explore this theme.

Our Black History Month Competition encouraged participants to delve deep into their creativity, inviting them to craft a poem, short story, or art piece that highlights a person or event that has reclaimed its narrative. Many students took this opportunity to express their thoughts on what "Reclaiming Narratives" means to them, creating a rich tapestry of voices that showcased their understanding and appreciation of this critical theme.



Chioma and Patrycja with their entry for the Black History Month Competition



In addition to the competition, the Drama department hosted a thought-provoking workshop focused on Black British playwrights, providing insights into the theatrical works that highlight the experiences of Black individuals in Britain. Students also participated in a captivating book reading of the novel 'Black Cake', which tells the poignant story of a character who finds her voice only in death, illuminating the struggles of reclaiming one's narrative. The celebration continued with a delightful food tasting event that showcased diverse culinary traditions, complimented by an uplifting gospel choir performance at Southwark Cathedral.

This year we were honoured to invite Stuart Lawrence to speak to students about the transformative power of education and speaking up, motivating students to take charge of their narratives and advocate for themselves, students found the talk inspiring and asked a range of questions. Wrapping up the month, a group of students will visit the British Library to engage in the "Windrush Voices" workshop, gaining firsthand knowledge of the stories and incredible contribution of the Windrush generation told through personal accounts. This year's Black History Month was not just a celebration, but a meaningful exploration of identity and heritage, leaving students informed and inspired to continue reclaiming narratives in their own lives. We look forward to continuing this journey throughout the remainder of the academic year.

Black History Month

On Saturday 5th of October, the Gospel Choir performed at Southwark Cathedral for their Black History month event, the theme of which was “Music at the Heart of Change”. Amongst other performers, all participants portrayed different cultures and music styles all used as methods of worship.

The weeks leading up to the performance were filled with as much hope as they were stress. Despite this, we had faith we would get the job done in time for the performance.

We quickly held auditions for the Gospel Choir in order to assemble our team and progressed to learning the songs. Thankfully, our Gospel choir this year are great and were able to cooperate with our own challenges that we experienced.



The day included performances from the Nigerian Chaplaincy choir, who filled the cathedral with their joyful worship songs. Zoe had the chance to meet Karen Gibson, the leader of the Kingdom Choir who performed at the royal wedding. The Archbishop of Canterbury attended along with Guest speaker Rev Andrew Zihini, Dean of Gloucester

3 sixth formers, including our head girl, were also present and read the prayers during the service.

Overall, this was a great experience and introduction to our Gospel Choir. We received loads of positive feedback and hope we can continue to showcase great performances.

Tyra, 13N



Music at the heart of change

My tongue shall sing of your word, for all your commandments are righteous.
Taken from Psalm 119, v172

The Diocese of Southwark invites you to join the 17th annual Black History Month Thanksgiving Eucharist, in partnership with the Diocesan Board of Education. Join us for a day of fellowship, learning and celebration, exploring this year's theme 'music at the heart of change'.

A panel discussion will follow the service featuring The Most Revd Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury and special guests.

At Southwark Cathedral
Saturday 5 October
10.30am-1.30pm

Find out more:
southwark.anglican.org/bhm

The Diocese of Southwark

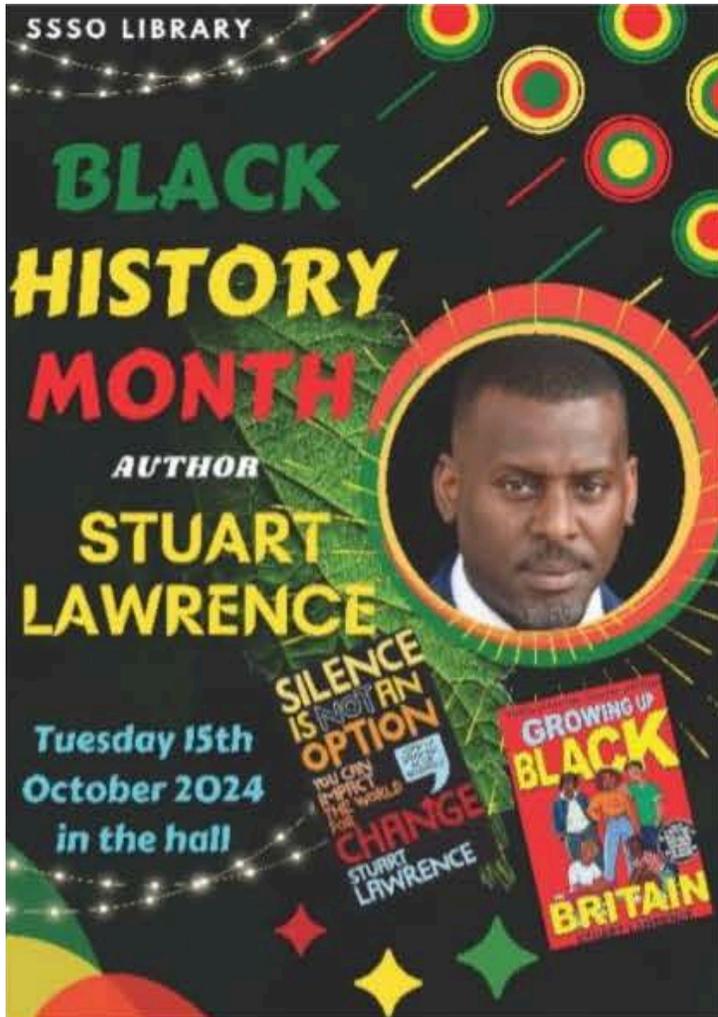
SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL

Black History Month



Black History Month - Stuart Lawrence

Inspirational visit



As part of our Black History Month celebration, the library had the pleasure of welcoming the Hon. Dr. Stuart Lawrence. Stuart, who is an educator and motivational speaker and brother of Stephen Lawrence visited SSSO on 15th October. Stuart delivered three great sessions, one for each key stage.

KS3 and KS4: Following your Potential and Flourishing in Education!

In KS3 and KS4 sessions, Stuart talked about the power of self-belief and how everyone can make a difference to society. He urged the students to believe in themselves and to use their full strength to pursue their goals in education and beyond.

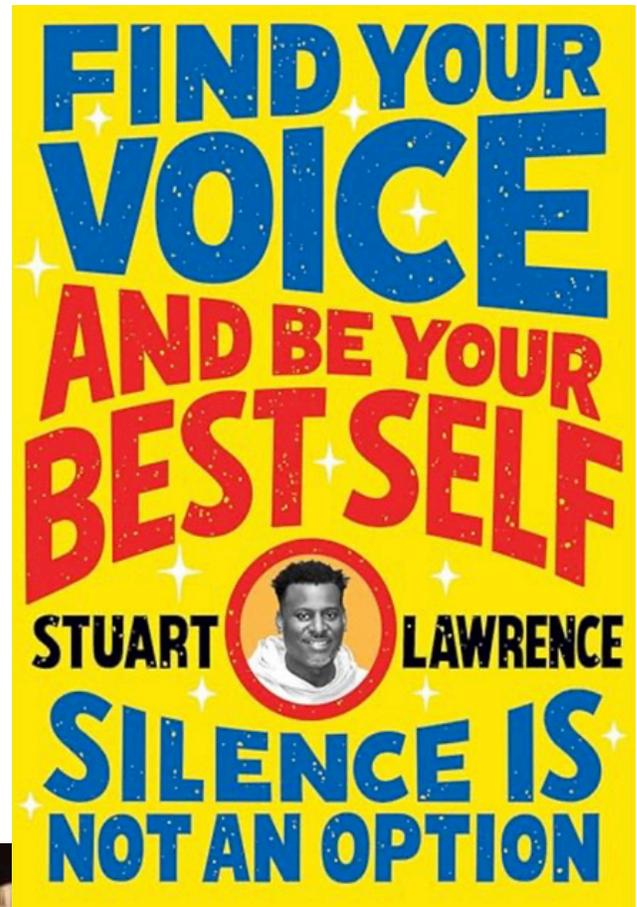
Stuart used personal expertise to explain where the secret to success lies, believe in yourself, be resilient and see challenges as opportunities for growth and progress. He gave practical tips on how to succeed in education, and he advised the students to stay focused, work hard, and believe in themselves. Stuart also talked about the power of words and individual personalities, some people uplift and support others, some will leave a mark or a negative impact. He urged the students to think about the impact they wanted to have on those around them and the importance of kindness, empathy and respect.

Black History Month Stuart Lawrence Inspirational Visit

KS5: A Story of Loss, Resilience, and Hope!

For KS5, Stuart's session was powerful and thought-provoking, where he shared the story of his brother Stephen's death. Stephen was 18 when he was murdered in a racist attack in April 1993. Stuart spoke with grace and no malice as he told us how his family had to adjust to the sudden and devastating loss of a son and brother.

Through his brother's tragic death, Stuart conveyed powerful messages of resilience, the importance of family, and the need for justice. He explained how his family's strength and determination to seek justice for Stephen have shaped their lives and continue to inspire change in society. Stuart encouraged the students to think about how they can respond to challenges with compassion and perseverance, rather than anger.



Stuart's visit left a profound impression on both students and staff alike. His positive energy, practical advice, and thought-provoking discussions have given us all much to reflect on. We are incredibly grateful for the time he spent with us at SSSO.

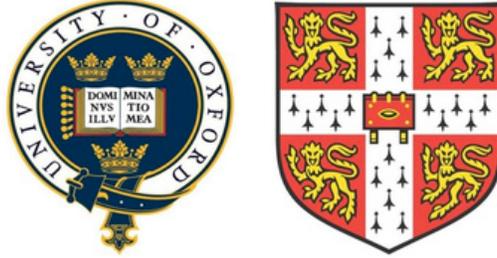
Y13 Visit to the French Institute in South Kensington



On October 22nd, our French A Level student had a wonderful day at the French Institute in South Kensington, where she engaged in activities celebrating Cultural Diversity and Black History Month. She first explored the French Médiathèque and library, discovering a wealth of resources. Following this, she took part in language activities centered around the film "Tout Simplement Noir" ("Simply Black"), a French comedy film discussing themes such as identity, immigration and racism. The language sessions also aimed at examining the response of the Black Lives Matter movement in French society. The day concluded with the screening of the film. Overall, the day was a celebration of diversity in France but also discussed the challenges around racial discrimination in French society.



Oxbridge Programme Launch



At SSSO we are proud of our history of seeing students go on to study at Russell Group universities including Oxford and Cambridge. This year's Oxbridge programme launched at the 6th form open evening in September and the subsequent Year 11 parents' evening. Students were able to express an interest in applying for Oxford or Cambridge University and take the first steps to prepare for the rigorous application process. It is essential that students achieve the highest possible choices at GCSE as a first step towards their goal. They are then supported to make informed A level choices to increase their chance of being successful at the application stage. The preparation for the admissions test starts in Year 12 and it is crucial that students have guided support throughout the process of writing their personal statement. We wish this year's students every success with their applications.

Year 7 Social Evening

On Monday 14th October, Year 7 parents had the delightful opportunity to join the staff at St Saviour's for an engaging and informative evening. This event provided a wonderful chance for parents to mingle with the teachers and discuss their child's progress and experiences.

Parents were given a glimpse into the daily life of their children at secondary school through interactive French and science lessons. This hands-on experience allowed parents to better understand the learning environment and curriculum their children are engaged with.

A highlight of the evening was the introduction to Winnie, our beloved therapy dog. Parents learned about the fantastic support Winnie offers to Year 7 students, helping to create a nurturing and supportive atmosphere within the school.

Additionally, parents were introduced to our new groundworks team, who play a crucial role in maintaining and enhancing the school environment. Their hard work and dedication ensure that students have a safe and pleasant place to learn.

The evening concluded with a session of refreshments, providing parents and staff the opportunity to ask and answer as many questions as they liked in a relaxed and convivial setting. It was a fantastic event, with both parents and staff enjoying the chance to connect and collaborate.

Year 7 Residential to Outward Bound Ullswater

From Monday 21st October to Friday 25th October 2024, our Year 7 students embarked on an unforgettable five-day adventure at Outward Bound Ullswater. This trip was filled with a variety of thrilling activities that provided many with a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Students began their days with invigorating jogs followed by dips in the lake, with some even braving this challenge in the darkness, showcasing their courage and determination. They pushed their limits by climbing up gorges and waterfalls and honed new skills through rock climbing and canoeing. Their navigation abilities were put to the test during orienteering challenges, and they displayed remarkable resilience by cooking their meals over a fire in the cold.



Teamwork and effective communication were essential throughout the trip. The students worked together to ensure they were punctual for breakfast and dinner and took responsibility for keeping their dorm rooms tidy. Their willingness to try new things and support each other was truly commendable.



Overall, our Year 7 students demonstrated incredible spirit and enthusiasm, making the most of every opportunity presented to them. We are immensely proud of their achievements and look forward to seeing how these experiences shape their future endeavors.

Year 7 Oracy Workshop

Expert trainers from Talk The Talk came to run an oracy skills workshop with Year 7 students. Talk The Talk's mission is to develop students' oracy skills and communication confidence to support positive interaction in all life situations and improved social outcomes. The students delivered mature and engaging speeches, showcasing their communication skills. They adeptly adjusted their posture and vocal delivery to enhance their presentations. Each student contributed enthusiastically, generating a wealth of creative ideas.



Year 10 Bricklayers Arms Project

On Thursday 26th September, students in Year 10 were able to take part in a workshop that was very close to home. I was contacted by Sanaa Shaikh who is the Director of Native Studios. Native Studios has been given the huge job to help re imagine The Bricklayers Arms. Sanaa wanted to hear the views from our students who live and go to school in the local area, this was an excellent opportunity for our students to give their views about The Bricklayers Arms. The workshop also gave our students the chance to work with a company called Imaginatrix they specialise in design using VAR set. Our students were able to see their thoughts and design come to life using headsets. I know this is the beginning of our work with Native Studios, our students are keen to make sure their ideas become reality.



Mr Young

Year 8 Milk Honey Bees Conference

On Friday 11th October, 6 students from Year 8 were given the opportunity to attend the Milk and Honeybees Workshop. Milk Honeybees is an organisation that supports young women and girls flourish and take ownerships. The day involved other young people from schools from Southwark, our students took part in self-development workshops and were able to take part in A and Q session at end of the workshop. I found this workshop very up lifting and taught our students to work together in group that you don't normally work together building up their resilience. - Mr Young



Hello my name is Sarah and I want to tell you about the Milk Honey Bees conference I went to on 11 October . The conference was an amazing space created for us Black girls to thrive. It is all about H. E.R Healing Empowerment and Resilience; making sure we can celebrate our blackness without any filters .T he founder started this program to give us a voice and visibility .They have projects which got us involved in academic work that centers on black girlhood . There's also Girlhood unfiltered, a book and exhibition showing the real experiences of black girls from south london .It's such an empowering community and its great to have a place where we can really be ourselves and support each other

Hello my name is Inemesit from 8G. I was recently presented with the amazing opportunity to attend Milk, Honeys Bees, a place known as a creative, expressive and safe space for young black girls to flourish. At this event we were taught to put healing, empowerment and resilience or H.E.R first .During the trip everyone was able to express and open up about what it is like to be a black girl today .I was also taught about some of the stereotypes black girls tend to face such as we' re loud, angry and we all have an attitude. We also learnt about the numerous disadvantages we often face in society sexism and racism, especially within employment and education. After this trip I fell even more comfortable with who I am and feel empowered as a young black female.

Hello I'm Nabeelah from 8B.As I entered into the vibrant world of Milk Honey Bees ,I felt an overwhelming sense of belonging wash over me and my other classmates.As soon as we were surrounded by a community of of young black girls laughter and creativity quickly filled the air. Stories, dreams and art was shared among all of us.I loved the way we celebrated each others uniqueness , empowering one another to have the courage for us to be able to be heard by others.It was a safe space Where our voices mattered and for the first time, I felt the beauty of sisterhood.

“Your silence will not protect you.“ -

Audre Lorde

Foreign Office Visit

On Tuesday 24th September, we were given the opportunity to visit the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office. The visit was organised by Merchant Taylors Foundation, who supports our school with exclusive visits and guest speakers. We decided to take our 6th forms students who are studying Government and Policies and a very keen Year 10 student who has a passion for policies. We took 11 students in total and Mr Stone who teaches Government and Policies. The visit started with a history talk about the offices this was given by a tour guide; we then went into the offices to see where all the important decisions were made. The visit was a good insight into the working of the Foreign Office, our students were able to ask questions about the day to day working in the offices. The highlight of the trip was being able to take a picture of 10 Downing Street, we were able to do this behind a security gate. We hope to continue our work with The Foreign Office, we are arranging for someone from the offices to attend our Government and Policies lesson very soon.

Mr Young



Drama at SSSO

A Face in the Crowd

On Thursday 3rd October our Year 10-13 Drama students enjoyed a trip to the Young Vic Theatre to see the new musical A Face in the Crowd. The show tells a story of Lonesome Roads, a down-and-out turned TV star who begins to impact the American elections. The performance was a real treat, some beautiful songs, exciting audience interaction (at one point the central character climbed over the front few rows of the auditorium to sing right in front of our year 10s!) and a serious and thought-provoking political message. Our students were exemplary audience members, as always, with members of the public commenting on how impressed they were by their conduct!



Guys and Dolls:

On Thursday 17th, the school took some of the GCSE and A Level students, from music and drama, to see the production of Guys and Dolls at The Bridge Theatre. It was an incredible performance which incorporated so many elements of the arts from the music and dance, to the acting, and even down to the costumes and set design. No matter what the student's interests were, there was something there for everyone which could inspire them in their own work. I personally loved watching the live music which could be very clearly seen. I loved watching what the conductor did and how the musicians worked together. I thought that the actors had incredible stage presence, and they all communicated really well together. They also interacted with the audience which made it feel like we were there with them. Overall, it was an amazing experience which I know I will remember forever. - Hannah,

Oliver!

This year's school production will be Lionel Bart's iconic musical Oliver! Rehearsals are already underway and the performance will be in July. We've already got 'Food Glorious Food' and 'Consider Yourself' stuck in our heads!

To celebrate Black History Month our Drama department ran two workshops exploring the work of contemporary black British playwrights. On Wednesday 9th October year 7 to 8 students learnt about Cape by Nigerian-born Inua Ellams. Their performances of the scene in which siblings Tanya and Bruce discuss how they might become superheroes to avenge their mother's mugging were lively and engaging. We also looked at Three Birds by Janice Okoh; another play about what happens to siblings when their mother is suffering. The scene we staged was touching and entertaining: sisters Tanika and Tiana fantasising about what they'll do when they're rich. The following week our Year 9-13 students explored Red Pitch, a play by Tyrell Williams inspired by the gentrification of Elephant and Castle which we went to see last year.



Winnie Welcomes Our New Year 7's

Winnie has had the best start to a school year yet and has been overwhelmed by the new Year 7 students who have shown how much they care for her. The students get to school at 8am on the dot and hurry up to the languages office to collect Winnie to take her to the library before school. She loves this time with them and looks forward to the treats she gets after all the hard work (hard work in this case means looking cute and receiving cuddles). Another early morning treat for Winnie is when the premises team save her sausages – it's no wonder she looks forward to coming to school so much.

Activities so far

- Winnie groups have started for Year 7s, 8s and 9s where a small group of students gets together in the morning to spend some relaxing time with her.
- Winnie has visited Boucher and John Keats primary schools and would love to visit some more in our local area.
- Winnie attended the Old Girls Association lunch at the end of September and met a lot of former students.
- Winnie attended Year 7 social and met parents.
- Winnie has sat patiently through Year 11 parents evening.
- Winnie has had one-on-one sessions with students who were finding things difficult at school.
- Winnie has started her regular break-time walks with sixth former students who take her around school so that all students have a chance to spend time with her.

Where to meet Winnie:

Every break time: Winnie is out and about on break duty either in Mayflower Gardens or the playground. She will be with a teacher or sixth former and you can ask if you can help to walk her around.

Every morning: Winnie is in the library every day between 8.05 and 8.30. She loves her library time and would love to see you there.



Free Youth Programmes

Southwark Youth and Play services have provided fantastic term-time programmes that are available at their local youth centres.

All Programmes are completely free and open to the young people of Southwark aged 11-19. The centres also provide a hot meal once a week at each centre, Free of Charge, please see the attached programmes to get involved.

Damilola Taylor Youth Centre (Tues/Wed/Thus 6pm – 9pm)
1 East Surrey Grove, SE15 6DR

Brandon Youth Centre (Tues/Wed/Thus 6pm – 9pm)
Maddock Way, Cooks Road, SE17 3NH

New Venture Youth Centre (Tues/Wed/Thus 6pm – 9pm)
66B Copeland Road, SE15 3SN

Youth Project @ Kingswood Arts (Mondays 6.30pm-9pm)
Seeley Drive, SE21 8QR



**CREATING GOOD
LIVES TOGETHER**



Keep your child safe on WhatsApp

What are the risks?

- Bullying, particularly in group chats
- Seeing content of a sexual nature, or showing violence and hatred
- Settings that allow messages to disappear after 24 hours or 7 days. This could make it harder to track bullying, and your child might share things they wouldn't otherwise because they know it will disappear
- Sharing their live location, particularly with people they don't know in person
- Spam or hoax messages
- Being exposed to strangers through group chats
- Group chats encouraging self-harm

WhatsApp says the minimum age to use it is 16, but younger children can still use it easily.

6 steps to help your child use WhatsApp safely

1. Keep their personal information and location private

By default, WhatsApp shows profile photos, status and when you last used it to all users.

Encourage your child to only share this information with their contacts and be careful about who they talk to on the app, as anyone could pretend to be a child online.

To check and change these settings:

- On an iPhone, open settings in WhatsApp (the cog icon), then Privacy. Tap the setting you want to change, then choose who it should be visible to
- On Android, tap the 3 dots in the top-right of the home screen, then > Settings > Privacy. Tap the setting you want to change, then choose who it should be visible to
- WhatsApp also has a feature that you can use to share your 'live location' with others. Tell your child to keep this turned off, or to only share their location with people they trust.

To check this:

- On an iPhone, go to phone Settings (the cog icon) > WhatsApp > Location, and tap to change if you need to
- On Android, go to privacy settings as above, then scroll down to 'Live location', and tap to change if you need to

2. Remind your child to be careful about what they share

It's easy to forward messages, photos and videos to others on WhatsApp. Even if your child sets a message to automatically disappear, or deletes it after sharing it, the person they send it to could still screenshot it, forward it to someone else, or save it.

So, before they share anything, tell them to ask themselves: "Would I want others to see what I'm about to send?"

3. Remind your child they can leave group chats

If they see something they're not comfortable with in a group chat, or are in a chat with someone they don't know and are uncomfortable with, they should leave the group. To do this:

- On an iPhone, go into the group chat, tap the group subject, then > Exit group > Exit group
- On Android, go into the group chat, tap the group subject, then > Exit group > Exit

4. Make sure your child knows how to report and block people

When they first receive a message from an unknown number, they'll have the option to report it.

If someone in your child's contacts is upsetting them or making them uncomfortable, they can report or block them at any point (WhatsApp won't tell the user they've been blocked/reported).

To do this:

- On an iPhone, open settings in WhatsApp, go to Privacy > Blocked > Add New... then find the contact they want to block, and tap the contact
- On Android, tap the 3 dots icon, then Settings, then tap Privacy > Blocked contacts, tap the icon in the top right showing a person and a plus sign, search for the contact they want to block, then tap the contact to block them

To report issues like offensive or abusive content or spam:

- On an iPhone, open the chat with the user you want to report, tap the contact then then tap Report Contact > Report And Block
- On Android, open the chat with the user you want to report, then tap the 3 dots icon, then > More > Report

5. Encourage your child to watch out for spam and hoax messages

These can appear to come from contacts, as well as people they don't know. Tell your child to watch out for messages that:

- Ask them to tap on a link, or specifically to click on a link to activate a new feature
- Ask them to share personal information like bank account details, date of birth or passwords
- Ask them to forward the message
- Say they have to pay to use WhatsApp
- Have spelling or grammar errors

6. Tell our school about any bullying they experience

Look for signs they your child may be being bullied, like being afraid or reluctant to go to school, feeling nervous, losing confidence or becoming distressed and withdrawn, or losing sleep.

