



St Jude's Catholic Primary School  
 St Jude's Close Maypole  
 Birmingham B14 5PD  
 Web-Site: [www.stjuderc.bham.sch.uk](http://www.stjuderc.bham.sch.uk)  
 Spring Term 2023 13th January 2023  
 Newsletter No 16

**We live, love and learn together joyfully, in Jesus' name.**

**Catholic School Pupil Profile**  
**Eloquent and Truthful**

This week, pupils were introduced to the focus value and virtue pairing that we have as part of the Catholic School Pupil Profile—Eloquent & Truthful:

"The way of peace is the way of truth.  
 Truthfulness is even more important than  
 peacefulness."

Gandhi (1869-1948)



**FUTURE DATES**

Some dates for your diary:

**January 28th—Confession after 11am mass, St. Dunstan's Church for Y6 Confirmandi**

**February 7th—SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION FOR BAPTISED CATHOLICS IN Y6 AT ST.DUNSTAN'S CHURCH, 7PM**

**February 17th—Pupils break up for half-term**

**February 20th-24th—half-term**

**February 27th—Pupils return from half-term break**

**March 4th—First Confession for Catholic pupils in Y3, after 11am mass at St. Dunstan's Church, Kingsheath.**  
**March 31st—end of Autumn term, school closes, optional 1pm finish.**

**April 17th -Teacher Day – School closed to pupils**

**April 18th—Pupils return to school**

**May 1st—May Day Bank Holiday**

**May 8th—Bank Holiday for King Charles III Coronation**

**w/c May 29th—Half-term week**

**June 5th—Teacher Day—school closed to pupils**

**June 13th—First Holy Communion for Catholic pupils in Y3 during the 10am parish mass at St. Jude's Church.**

**July 25th—End of term, optional 1pm finish**

**September 4th—Teacher Day, school closed to pupils**

**September 5th—School opens for pupils for academic year 23/24**

**Stars of the Week!**

Nursery - All of Nursery

Reception – Aaliyah & Michelle

Year 1 –Harry & Eliana

Year 2 - Victoria & James

Year 3 - Max & Fadia

Year 4 - Riley & Daisy

Year 5 - Kye & Francis

Year 6 – Jackson & Jess



**Award certificates (not Nursery)**

**will be presented in assembly on January 27th**

**at 2.45pm—parents are welcome.**

**Diocesan Inspection**

We had more visitors in school this week, this time looking at the Catholic Life, Collective Worship and Religious Education of school. Thank you for completing your questionnaires and being so reflective about school. And, of course, thanks to the pupils who shone with their beautiful behaviour and in the way they welcomed our guests. I am very proud of the school and all that we achieve together.

**WHOLE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE**

Class	Rec	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Whole School
<b>This Week</b>	96.6%	93.2%	93.1%	91.9%	97.3%	92.2%	91.5%	94.5%
<b>This Term</b>	94.1%	93.3%	94.3%	95.6%	96.7%	92.3%	90.0%	93.7%
<b>Whole Year</b>	91.7%	90.6%	93.3%	94.5%	94.4%	95.5%	92.7%	93.3%



Another social media platform to be aware of—please read carefully!

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many apps which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# AMIGO

Amigo is a social platform which purports to connect strangers from around the world – and, with built-in translation software, it reduces the expected language barriers. Focusing heavily on one-to-one chat, video calls and live streams, Amigo encourages its users to build up online relationships and unlock exclusive features such as private video and audio calls; essentially, the more that people chat, the more functions become available to them. This is an app designed with mature users very much in mind and is therefore definitely not recommended for children.

AGE RATING

18

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### ONE-TO-ONE COMMUNICATION

While online chats and livestreaming are a great way to communicate with people that children can trust (such as friends and family), Amigo encourages users to connect with complete strangers and develop a friendship through private chats, calls and videos. This will be a clear red flag for most parents, due to the possibility of a child encountering inappropriate content or an online predator.

### INAPPROPRIATE CONTACT

Within minutes of signing up for our trial of Amigo (and without using a profile photo), users of the opposite sex were messaging with suggestive statements such as "You're just my type" and "Let's have fun". While the app's stated intent is to help people build friendships, some users obviously seek to take those relationships in a more mature and amorous direction.

### MEMBERSHIP COSTS

Like many apps that are free to download, Amigo's business model is centred on in-app purchases. Users are encouraged to pay for VIP membership – enabling them to send more messages each day and boosting their profile's visibility. People can also buy coins (again, for real money) which allow them to send virtual gifts and further increase the number of messages they can send daily.

### LACK OF AGE VERIFICATION

Amigo makes no secret of the fact that it's for people aged 18 or above. There's no age verification, however, so a young person could simply sign up under a false date of birth. The app's algorithm claims to match users of similar ages (making them more compatible), but either the algorithm isn't very reliable, or most users have entered a fake age which doesn't correspond with their profile pic.

### REWARDS FOR REPEATED USE

Amigo gifts virtual coins to users if they reply to messages within 10 seconds, while there are also daily rewards for posting comments, sharing a video, getting likes or simply opening the app. It also encourages increasing 'intimacy levels' with other users to unlock extra features: once someone's online 'friendship' reaches intimacy level 3, they can hold one-to-one video calls with each other.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### MONITOR DOWNLOADS

As well as frequent catch-ups with your child about what they've enjoyed doing online, you could consider taking the additional step of physically checking their phone every so often to see which apps they've installed. The safest option could be to enable 'ask to buy' (Apple) or 'purchase approvals' (Android) on their device, meaning your authorisation is needed to download any apps.

### RESPECT AGE RESTRICTIONS

Apps have age restrictions for a reason, and Amigo is very definitely a mature content platform. Given that many of Amigo's users apparently use a bogus date of birth, you might want to remind your child about the implications of setting up a fake profile – such as being exposed to messages and videos that make them feel uncomfortable or feeling pressured into chatting with strangers.

### BLOCK, REPORT, DISCUSS

Many children already know that connecting with strangers online is dangerous, but it never hurts to refresh their memory. Whatever communication apps your child uses, make sure they're fully aware that if anything online makes them feel uncomfortable, scared or upset, then they can block the user responsible, report the content, take a screenshot as evidence and come to tell you straight away.

### ACTIVE LISTENING

If your child does approach you with a concern, make time to stop what you're doing and actively listen. Let them talk without interrupting or showing any judgement, then discuss their options and the possible solutions: this empowers them and reassures them that you're there to be supportive. If the issue is one that has put your child at risk, however, you may wish to contact the police.

### Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



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#WakeUpWednesday