



Chestnuts Primary School

Social Media use policy

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Statement of intent

Chestnuts Primary School understands that social media is a growing part of life outside of school. We have a responsibility to safeguard our pupils against potential dangers when accessing the internet at school, and to educate our pupils about how to protect themselves online when outside of school.

We are committed to:

- Encouraging the responsible use of social media in support of the school's values and objectives.
- Protecting our pupils from the dangers of social media.
- Preventing and avoiding damage to the reputation of the school through irresponsible use of social media.
- Protecting our staff from cyber bullying and potentially career damaging behaviour.
- Arranging e-safety meetings for parents.

1. Key roles and responsibilities

1.1. The Headteacher has overall responsibility for the implementation of the Social Media Policy and procedures.

1.2. The Headteacher has responsibility for ensuring that the Social Media Policy, as written, does not discriminate on any grounds, including but not limited to: ethnicity/national origin, culture, religion, gender, disability or sexual orientation.

1.3. The Governing Body has responsibility for handling complaints regarding this policy as outlined in the school's Complaints Policy.

1.4. The Headteacher will be responsible for the day-to-day implementation and management of the Social Media Policy and procedures.

1.5. Staff, including teachers, support staff and volunteers, will be responsible for following the Social Media Policy and for ensuring pupils do so also. They will also be

responsible for ensuring the policy is implemented fairly and consistently in the classroom.

1.6. Parents and carers will be expected to take responsibility for the social media habits of their child/children at home.

1.7. Parents and carers will be expected to promote safe social media behaviour.

2. Definitions

2.1. Chestnuts Primary School defines "social media" as any online platform that offers real-time interaction between the user and other individuals or groups including but not limited to:

- Blogs.
- Online discussion forums, such as netmums.com.
- Messaging services such as Whatsapp.
- Collaborative spaces, such as Facebook.
- Media sharing services, such as YouTube.
- 'Micro-blogging' applications, such as Twitter.

2.2. Chestnuts Primary School defines "cyber bullying" as any use of social media or communication technology to bully an individual or group.

2.3. Chestnuts Primary School defines "members of the school community" as any teacher, member of support staff, pupil, parent/carer of pupil, governor or ex-pupil.

3. Training of staff

3.1. At Chestnuts Primary School, we recognise that early intervention can protect pupils who may be at risk of cyber bullying or negative social media behaviour. As such, teachers will receive training in identifying potentially at-risk pupils.

3.2. Teachers and support staff will receive training on this Social Media Policy as part of their Safeguarding and Staff Conduct training.

3.3. Teachers and support staff will receive regular and ongoing briefings and communications as part of their development.

4. Pupil expectations

4.1. Pupils are responsible for following the school rules and will be expected to follow requests from teachers.

5. Social media use - staff

5.1. School media passwords are kept securely online. The passwords must never be shared.

5.2. The Headteacher is responsible for the school's media accounts. She may delegate this responsibility as appropriate.

5.3. Teachers may not access social media during lesson time, unless it is part of a curriculum activity.

5.4. Teachers may use social media during their break times.

5.5. Members of staff should not use social media in front of pupils.

5.6. Members of staff **must not** "friend" or otherwise contact pupils or parents/carers through social media.

5.7. If pupils or parents/carers attempt to "friend" or otherwise contact members of staff through social media, they should be reported to the headteacher.

5.8. Members of staff should avoid identifying themselves as an employee of Chestnuts Primary School on social media.

5.9. Members of staff **must not** post content online which is damaging to the school or any of its staff or pupils.

5.10. Where teachers or members of staff use social media in a personal capacity, they should make it clear that their views are personal.

5.11. Teachers or members of staff must not post any information which could identify a pupil, class or the school.

5.12. Members of staff should not post anonymously or under an alias to evade the guidance given in this policy.

5.13. Breaches of this policy by members of staff will be taken seriously, and in the event of illegal, defamatory or discriminatory content, could lead to prosecution, disciplinary action or dismissal.

5.14. Members of staff should be aware that if their out-of-work activity brings Chestnuts Primary School into disrepute, disciplinary action will be taken.

5.15. Members of staff should regularly check their online presence for negative content via search engines.

5.16. If inappropriate content is accessed online, an inappropriate website content report form should be completed and passed on to Headteacher.

5.17. Attempts to bully, coerce or manipulate members of the school community, via social media, by teachers and members of staff will be dealt with as a disciplinary matter.

5.18. Members of staff should not leave a computer or other device logged in when away from their desk, or save passwords.

5.19. Staff members should use their school email address for school business and personal email address for their private correspondence; the two should not be mixed.

6. Social media use – pupils and parents/carers

6.1. Pupils may not access social media during lesson time, unless it is part of a curriculum activity.

6.2. Breaches of this policy by pupils will be taken seriously, and in the event of illegal, defamatory or discriminatory content could lead to prosecution, or exclusion.

6.3. Pupils and parents/carers **must not** attempt to “friend” or otherwise contact members of staff through social media. If attempts to contact members of staff through social media are made, they will be reported to the Headteacher.

6.4. If members of staff attempt to “friend” or otherwise contact pupils or parents / carers through social media, they should be reported to the headteacher.

6.5. Pupils and parents/carers should not post anonymously or under an alias to evade the guidance given in this policy.

6.6. Pupils and parents/carers **must not** post content online which is damaging to the school or any of its staff or pupils.

6.7. Pupils at Chestnuts Primary School must not sign up to social media sites that have an age restriction above the pupil's age.

6.8. If inappropriate content is accessed online on school premises, it **must** be reported to a teacher.

6.9. Parents will sign acceptable use of the internet agreement at the first Parents evening of the year. See appendix 3

7. Blocked content

7.1. The following social media websites are blocked by the network's firewalls:

- Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, among others
- Blocked content is managed as part of membership of the London Grid for Learning (LGfL) network.

7.2. Attempts to circumvent the network's firewalls will result in a ban from using school computing equipment, other than with close supervision.

- 7.3. Inappropriate content which is accessed on the school computers should be reported to the Headteacher so that the site can be blocked.
- 7.4. Requests may be made to access erroneously blocked content by submitting a "blocked content access" form to the Headteacher.
- 7.5. The final decision on whether access should be granted to a site will be made by the Headteacher.

8. Cyber bullying

- 8.1. At Chestnuts Primary School, cyber bullying is taken seriously.
- 8.2. Incidents of cyber bullying will be dealt with and reported along the same chain as the Anti-Bullying Policy and the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.
- 8.3. Staff members should never respond or retaliate to cyberbullying incidents. Incidents should instead be reported as inappropriate, and support sought from their line manager or senior staff member.
- 8.4. Evidence from the incident should be saved, including screen prints of messages or web pages, and the time and date of the incident.
- 8.5. Where the perpetrator is a current pupil or colleague, most cases can be dealt with through the school's own disciplinary procedures.
- 8.6. Where the perpetrator is an adult, in nearly all cases, a senior staff member should invite the victim to a meeting to address their concerns. Where appropriate, the perpetrator will be asked to remove the offensive content.
- 8.7. If the perpetrator refuses to comply, it is up to the school to decide what to do next. This could include contacting the internet service provider in question through their reporting mechanisms, if the offensive content breaches their terms and conditions.
- 8.8. If the material is threatening, abusive, sexist, of a sexual nature or constitutes a hate crime, the school should consider contacting the police.

8.9. As part of our on-going commitment to the prevention of cyber bullying, regular education and discussion about e-safety will take place as part of computing and PSHE.

9. Be SMART online

9.1. We encourage pupils to take a SMART approach to social media behaviour:

- **Safe** – Do not give out personal information, or post photos of yourself to people you talk to online. Follow age restriction rules.
- **Meeting** – Do not meet somebody you have only met online. We encourage parents/carers to speak regularly to their children about who they are talking to online.
- **Accepting** – We advise that pupils only open emails and other forms of communication from people they already know.
- **Reliable** – We teach pupils about the dangers of believing everything they see online.
- **Tell** – We encourage pupils to tell a teacher, parent or carer if they see anything online that makes them feel uncomfortable.

Appendix 1 – Blocked content access form

Blocked website content access request form
Teacher name:
Full URL:
Site content:
Reasons:

Risks:

Approved

Yes

No

Reason:

Appendix 2 – Inappropriate content report form

Inappropriate website content report form
Teacher name:
Full URLs:
General site content:

Nature of inappropriate content:

Safeguarding issue?

Site blocked (Date):

Appendix 3 – Social media home school agreement forms

Acceptable use of the internet: agreement for parents and carers

Name of parent/carer:

Name of child:

Child's class:

Online channels are an important way for parents/carers to communicate with, or about, our school.

The school uses the following channels:

- Our official Facebook page
- Email/text groups for parents (for school announcements and information)
- Our virtual learning platform

Parents/carers also set up independent channels to help them stay on top of what's happening in their child's class. For example, class/year Facebook groups, email groups, or chats (through apps such as WhatsApp).

When communicating with the school via official communication channels, or using private/independent channels to talk about the school, I will:

- Be respectful towards members of staff, and the school, at all times
- Be respectful of other parents/carers and children
- Direct any complaints or concerns through the school's official channels, so they can be dealt with in line with the school's complaints procedure

I will not:

- Use private groups, the school's Facebook page, or personal social media to complain about or criticise members of staff. This is not constructive and the school can't improve or address issues if they aren't raised in an appropriate way
- Use private groups, the school's Facebook page, or personal social media to complain about, or try to resolve, a behaviour issue involving other pupils. I will contact the school and speak to the appropriate member of staff if I'm aware of a specific behaviour issue or incident
- Upload or share photos or videos on social media of any child other than my own, unless I have the permission of other children's parents/carers

Signed:

Date:

Appendix 4

Contact details for social networking sites

Social networking site	Useful links
Ask. Fm	Terms of service Safety tips
BBM	Rules and safety
Facebook	Rules Report to Facebook Safety Centre
Instagram	Rules Report to Instagram Safety Centre
Kik Messenger	Rules Report to Kik Help Centre
Snapchat	Rules Report to Snapchat

	Safety tips for parents
Tumblr	Rules Report to Tumblr If you email Tumblr, take a screenshot as evidence and attach it.
Twitter	Rules Report to Twitter
Vine	Rules Contacting Vine and reporting
YouTube	Rules Report to YouTube Safety Centre

Appendix 5

Mobile phones

All UK mobile phone providers have malicious or nuisance call, text or picture message centres set up and have procedures in place to help deal with instances of bullying or abuse. They can change numbers and, where necessary, assist the police in tracing malicious calls.

Service provider	From your mobile	Pay as you go	Pay monthly contracts
O2	4445 or 202	08705 678 678	0870 241 0202
VodaFone	191	03333 040 191	03333 048 069
3	333	08433 733 333	08433 733 333
EE	150	0800 956 6000	0800 956 6000
Orange	150	07973 100 450	07973 100 150
T-Mobile	150	07953 966 150	07953 966 150
Virgin	789	0345 6000 789	0345 6000 789
BT		08000 328 751	08000 328 751