



SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

1 Rationale

The school requires permission from parents to use photos of students for promotion and use on our School webpage. This is to comply with Privacy laws and to 'protect' the identity of individual students within the school environment. This permission is requested on enrolment.

Social networking using sites such as Facebook and Twitter is a world-wide phenomenon which will involve the vast majority of our students and their families. Consequently, it is highly appropriate that our school teaches students how to engage in social networking effectively, responsibly and safely. Students must be skilled and informed about the advantages, disadvantages, opportunities and potential dangers associated with social networks.

Social networking refers to internet-based online social communications sites such as Facebook and Twitter.

Social network sites provide powerful opportunities for individuals to connect with friends and strangers throughout the world, but at the same time, can expose the unwary to hazards and dangers that users must proactively avoid.

2 Aims

For all students to become familiar, competent and responsible users of mainstream social networking sites whilst develop the skills to maintain their safety, security and privacy at all times while using mainstream social networking sites.

3 Implementation

Students will be informed about the potential dangers of online social networking, and discuss potentially dangerous behaviour including the use of Facebook, Twitter and similar mainstream networking sites. This will include how to create safe personal online identities, how to communicate with selective others, how to protect their privacy and maintain security and how to use proper and appropriate internet protocols when communicating.

- Students will be made aware of cyber-bullying, its impact on others, how to avoid and respond to cyber-bullying, and the legal implications and consequences of cyber-bullying.
- **The school will provide social networking information evenings for parents and families.**
- Students found to be using the school's technologies or internet services inappropriately for any purpose (including unauthorised or unreasonable use of social networking sites) can expect to be dealt with in a manner consistent with our Student Code of Conduct including prohibited internet access.
- Staff members must not engage in social networks with students other than as part of the educational program. They will not 'friend' students on personal social networks or respond to 'friend' requests.



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- Photos taken by parents, at any school event that includes students other than their own or staff members, are not to be up-loaded to any social media site or forwarded to any device. School events include, but not limited to, camps, excursions, sports days, etc.
- Staff members must remove photos/video taken on any non-school device, as soon as practicably possible.
- Any student who needs to bring a communication device to school must hand this device to the classroom teacher at the start of the school day (9:00am). It is the student's responsibility to take care of the device until such time as it is passed over to the teacher. It will be returned to the student at the end of the school day.
- If outside use of any social media site impacts on the wellbeing of students at school parents will be informed and students will undergo restorative practices to resolve the situation.
- Parents should remain vigilant in regards to their child's use of social networking and respect the boundaries between home and school in relation to these sites and any issues that may arise.

4 Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed annually.