



Mitchell House School Social Media Policy

Social Media and Online Safety Policy

The aim of this policy is to advise pupils, parents and staff about the responsible use of Social Media. This policy will help us create an online environment which is welcoming, free from fear and in line with the requirements of the law. This policy will also outline what steps and actions will be taken in the event that Social Media is being misused by pupils, parents or staff.

We recognise that Social Media can be useful, particularly when it comes to fundraising or raising awareness of the activities and events which go on in our school. However, at times Social Media has been known to cause conflict and in some cases present Safeguarding and Child Protection issues. Mitchell House School has one official, carefully monitored, Facebook page. Any other Social Media sites claiming to be Mitchell House School have not been sanctioned by the Senior Leadership Team.

In addition to these policy guidelines it is useful to remember that Social media websites themselves have facilities to report inappropriate material, for example reporting the specific 'post' or by contacting their support team. However, everyone should be aware that some of the Social Media sites are reluctant to remove certain material unless it's particularly offensive. We therefore encourage everyone to try and resolve matters informally or through school procedures in the first instance.

Inappropriate Online Activity (Pupils)

Most pupils will use Social Media responsibly. However, occasionally pupils will use Social Media to bully other pupils and make comments about teachers. For example, cyber-bullying between pupils will normally involve teasing, threatening behaviour and will seek to socially exclude others. This is unacceptable and will be treated as misconduct in line with our Behaviour for Learning Policy.

Teachers should deal with cyber-bullying in exactly the same way as they deal with bullying in school, please refer to our Anti-Bullying Policy for further information. When dealing with incidents of cyber-bullying in particular the following actions may also be applicable:

- All staff members are expected to encourage pupils and parents to follow the school values and report any incidences of online bullying.
- The Principal or the Vice Principal may need to take action to remove offending material from websites; this might be done by meeting with parents and pupils.
- Use of school filtering facilities to block the use of social networking on school premises as well as other inappropriate websites.
- When pupils make comments about teachers online, staff members should think: 'how would I deal with this if it was said orally?' and take the same actions.
- As a member of the Mitchell House School Community everyone has a duty of care to each other; we should protect each other's dignity and respect each other in the workplace/place of study. Staff should always act upon incidents that come to their attention, but also encourage colleagues not to keep reading/looking out for remarks made online
- In the event that a staff member needs to produce evidence to support a particular school procedure, the Principal or Vice Principal may have to obtain evidence through screen shots and print outs of social media material. However, this is only if it is necessary and reasonable to do so.

Inappropriate online activity (Staff)

Occasionally, members of staff will use Social media and websites in inappropriate ways, which can cause difficulties in school between colleagues and could bring the school into disrepute. This could be disclosing sensitive information or making disparaging remarks.

Our Code of Conduct and disciplinary procedures include details of what action will be taken when there has been unacceptable behaviour online and abuse of social media. Our E-Safety and ICT policy also outlines what is considered acceptable use of social media and other sites during school time. It is each individual staff members' responsibility to make sure they have read and follow these policies and guidelines.

Inappropriate activity online will be dealt with through the disciplinary policy in the same way offline issues are dealt with.

Inappropriate online activity (Parents)

Parental and Carers involvement in maintaining the positive relationships between pupils, staff and parents is paramount. Staff and parents work together to promote positive behaviour within and beyond the school gates.

We ask that Parents and Carers do not use Social Media as a tool to air grievances but instead follow our Complaints Procedure. By following this procedure, the school can put into place actions which will help remedy grievances.

Staff members are asked to report inappropriate parental use of Social Media to either the Principal or the Vice Principal. The Principal or Vice Principal will work with the parent to seek to have the offending content removed and they will encourage face-to-face communication about parental complaints. Screenshots of offensive material can only be obtained by the Principal or Vice Principal. All matters will be treated as confidential and in line with GDPR legislation.

10 APPS TEENS ARE USING THAT PARENTS NEED TO KNOW



Calculator%
This app looks like a calculator but functions like a secret photo vault.



Hot or Not
Strangers rate your profile. Goal is to lead to a hook up.



Omegle
A free online chat website that promotes chatting anonymously to strangers.



Burn Book
Post anonymous rumors about people through audio messages, texts, and photos.



Yellow
This app is designed to allow teens to flirt with each other in a Tinder-like atmosphere.



Wishbone
An app that allows users to compare kids against each other and rate them on a scale.



Whisper
An anonymous app where the creators promote sharing secrets and meeting new people.



Kik
Messaging app. Kik has built in apps and web content that would be filtered on home computer.



Ask.fm
Ask an anonymous question and get an answer. This app has been linked to the most severe forms of cyberbullying.



Instagram
Many kids are now creating fake accounts to hide content from parents. Kids also like to text using Instagram because messages are deleted once a user leaves conversation.

FOR MORE INFO: APPSOLUTELYAPRIL.COM