

Social Media Policy (Pupil)

Amended: May 2019

Approved by Governors: September 2019

Review date: May 2020

Reviewing Panel: Standards, Staffing and Curriculum

Rationale

Social media is a powerful communication tool that is having a significant impact upon both learning and communication within the wider community of Woodlands School.

To ensure that the lines between personal opinion and bringing the school into disrepute remain clear, we have written the following policy to help clarify how best to protect all pupils and their personal reputations when participating in social media activities.

Social media networking is defined as media designed to encourage social interaction and create communications which are highly accessible.

Examples include (not all highlighted) Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, Snapchat and Instagram.

Pupils are expected to behave in a manner which is representative of Woodlands School rules and its' ethos.

Strategies

Below is some brief supporting guidance for using Social Media:

- Pupils should adhere to the legal age restrictions placed on each social media platform i.e. 13 years old to use Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, Facebook and 18 years old for YouTube.
- Pupils should not engage in any online activities that may compromise their safety and should always know who they are communicating with.
- It is recommended that you set your security to the highest level available to ensure only agreed people can contact you.
- Do not post information, pictures or videos about Woodlands School, pupils, parents, staff or others which may compromise them or the school.
- Do not use the Woodlands School logo or letterheads on personal social media sites or use the school name to endorse any products without the Head Teacher's prior permission.
- Social Media must not be used by pupils for personal (as in not directed by a member of staff) use during the school day.
- Pupils must not communicate electronically about Woodlands School with staff unless the communication is through the school server.
- Photographs / videos of pupils, staff or visitors to Woodlands School should have their prior written permission before being posted in the public domain.
- Posts on social media sites should protect Woodlands School by maintaining the high expectations in tone and with an acceptable content.
- Pupils should keep personal information private.
- Pupils should consider the long-term implications of any content posted online.
- Pupils must not upload or post inappropriate, offensive or illegal content to their own or other online spaces.
- Pupils should read and adhere to any website's terms of conditions of use – including those around age restrictions.

Pupils should refer to the Woodlands School acceptable usage policy which is sent to parent/carers when their child joins Woodlands School.

Should a pupil not follow the guidelines and is deemed to have brought the school into disrepute or threatened another member of the school community, appropriate sanctions will be imposed. The school reserves the right, as directed by the Department of Education to investigate any allegations which contravene the school rules and / or involve pupil safety.

It may be deemed necessary to search a mobile device without consent if there are suspicions that it may contain pornographic images or reference to something which would place a pupil or others at risk.

If there is further recurrence then a disciplinary hearing with the Head Teacher and Governing Body will be convened.

For further guidance on the Communication Act 2003, section 127, please refer to the listed website.

www.cps.gov.uk/legal/a_to_c/communications_offences/

Any concerns about personal Social Media usage will be referred to the Child Protection Officer in the first instance and where necessary, the Head Teacher.


Signed: _____
Head Teacher

Dated: 9th September 2019


Signed: _____
Chair of Governors

Dated: 9th September 2019

