

Most people take part in online activities and social media. It's fun, interesting and keeps us connected. There are various online school groups managed by parents for parents and carers, such as WhatsApp groups and Facebook groups etc. and they can be a useful source of knowledge, support and advice. It is a parent/carer's decision to join and act appropriately within these spaces; however, we ask that you do the following when discussing school life online.

Think before you post...

We ask that social media, whether public or private, should not be used to fuel campaigns and voice complaints against the school, school staff, parents or pupils. We take very seriously inappropriate use of social media by a parent/carer to publicly humiliate or criticise another parent, pupil or member of staff.

We expect parents and carers of social media to:

- Respect the ethos, vision and values of our school
- Work together with staff in the best interests of our pupils
- Treat all members of the school community with respect – setting a good example with speech and behaviour
- Seek a peaceful solution to all issues
- Approach the right member of school staff to help resolve any issues of concern

If parents/carers have any concerns about their child in relation to the school, they should refer to our communications policy. For ease, the steps are listed below:

1. Initially contact the class teacher
2. If the concern remains, they should contact the school office who can direct your concern to a member of the leadership team
3. If still unresolved, the school governors through the complaint's procedure.

They should not use social media as a medium to air any concerns or grievances.

Online activity which we consider inappropriate:

1. Identifying or posting images/videos of pupils
2. Abusive or personal comments about staff, pupils or other parents
3. Bringing the school into disrepute
4. Posting defamatory or libelous comments
5. Emails circulated or sent directly with abusive or personal comments about staff or pupils
6. Using social media to publicly challenge school policies or discuss issues about individual children
7. Threatening behaviour, such as verbally intimidating staff, or using bad language
8. Breaching school security procedures

We are a values-based school and encourage our parents and carers to approach online communications in this manner too. At our school we take our safeguarding responsibilities seriously and will deal with any reported incidents appropriately in line with the actions outlined above.

