
Dishforth C of E Primary School - Social Media Policy

We publish information about our school and communicate with parents / carers in many ways:

- regular newsletters
- informal meetings
- parents' evenings
- school website
- email
- social media

We encourage anyone who is interested in the life of our school to follow us on Facebook and/or Twitter. These social media sites enable us to share much more about day-to-day life in school; the kind of detail that might not normally be enough for a newsletter or a meeting.

Use of sites

We use our social media sites to share information that is of general interest. We do not believe that these are appropriate places to discuss personal matters that are specific to individual members of our community, whether these relate to children, parents, staff, governors, or anyone else. It is important for everybody's privacy and safety that we are all clear about how we use these sites and what is acceptable behaviour from the people who choose to follow us.

Social networking sites are being used increasingly to fuel campaigns and complaints against schools, headteachers, staff and in some cases other parents or pupils. The Governors of Dishforth C of E Primary School considers the use of social networking sites being used this way as unacceptable and not in the best interests of the children or the whole school community. Any concerns parents/carers may have must be made through the appropriate channels by speaking with the class teacher, headteacher or Chair of Governors, so they can be dealt with fairly, appropriately and effectively for all concerned.

Privacy

- We will **not** publish any photographs of children, from which it is possible to identify individuals
- We will **not** identify any children by name
- We will **not** allow personally identifying information to be published on our social media accounts

Respect

- We will **not** allow posts or comments that refer to specific, individual matters between the school and members of its community
- We will **not** tolerate any comments or posts that are defamatory, rude, bullying or abusive towards any member of our community

Our rules

- We welcome online comments about the information we post – these may be public, or may make use of private messaging options (ie Facebook's Message inbox or Twitter's direct message option). However, we reserve the right to delete comments and to ban further comments from anyone who breaks the terms of our policy
- Our Facebook and Twitter accounts are intended **only** for use by adults.
- We will ban and report anyone who breaks the terms of service of the relevant social media platform. For example, Facebook's Terms of Service do **not** permit people under the age of 13 to open an account.