

HURST GREEN PRIMARY SCHOOL



Social Networking Policy for Parents and Carers

Policy for the attention of			
Audience	Key Audience	Optional Audience	Additional/Notes
Senior Leadership Team	√		
Teachers	√		
Teaching Assistants	√		
Administrative Staff	√		
Lunchtime Supervisors	√		
Site Manager	√		
Cleaners	√		
Governors	√		
Parents	√		
Website	√		
Local Authority		√	

Responsibility of	School Improvement Committee
Review frequency	Annually
Previous versions	4 February 2019; 3 February 2020; 22 February 2021
This version agreed	7 February 2022
Next review date	Spring 2023

Staff and Parents of Hurst Green Primary School support good practice on Social Networking Sites

The Head teacher, staff and governors have agreed an approach to the use of Social Networking sites that include the items below. We are now inviting parents to join us in setting a good example for our children.

Overview

Social networking sites such as What's app, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter are now widely used. This type of media allows people to communicate in ways that were not previously possible. However, such sites can be inappropriately used by some as a means of expressing negative or offensive views about schools and their staff. This document sets out this School's approach to parental use of such sites and sets out the procedures we will follow and action we may take when we consider that parents have used such facilities inappropriately. When we have referred to "parent" in this document, we also include carers; relatives; or anyone associated with the School.

This policy works in conjunction with other policies including the behaviour policy, the social media policy, the social network policy and the policy for use of Teams.

Appropriate use of social networking sites by parents

Social networking sites have potential to enhance the learning and achievement of pupils and enable parents to access information about the School. In addition, the School recognises that many parents and other family members will have personal social networking accounts, which they might use to discuss/share views about school issues with friends and acquaintances. As a guide, individuals should consider the following prior to posting any information on social networking sites about the School, its staff, its pupils, or anyone else associated with the School:

- Is a social network the correct place to post concerns?
- Are comments likely to cause harm to people's reputations or emotions to either staff, parents or children?
- Must not breach the school's equal opportunities; anti-bullying; behaviour and discipline; e-safety and social media policies.

Inappropriate use of social networking sites by parents

Although social networking sites may appear to be the quickest and easiest way to express frustrations or concerns about the School (and those associated with it), it is rarely appropriate to do so. Other channels, such as a private and confidential discussion with the School, or using the School's formal complaints process are much better suited to this.

The School considers the following examples to be inappropriate uses of social networking sites:

- Making allegations towards staff or children regardless of using names or not
- Making complaints about the school or staff
- Making defamatory statements about the school, staff or pupils
- Posting racist comments
- Posting photos of other children in school uniform without prior consent of all parties
- Posting comments that threaten violence

Parents should also ensure that their children are not using social networking/internet sites unless they are of the required age. It is expected that parents explain to their children what is acceptable to post online. Parents are also expected to monitor their children's online activity, including to their use of social media.

NOTE: As a school, we find that most issues within Key Stage 2 are directly related to what's apps and online gaming and believe this should also be monitored.

Procedure the School will follow if inappropriate use continues

The School will always try to deal with concerns raised by parents in a professional and appropriate manner and understands that parents may not always realise when they have used social networking sites inappropriately. Therefore, as a first step, the School will usually discuss the matter with the parent to try and resolve the matter and to ask that the relevant information be removed from the social networking site in question. If the parent refuses to do this and continues to use social networking sites in a manner the School considers inappropriate, the School will consider taking the following action:

- Take legal advice where information is defamatory
- Sending the school's concern in writing requesting information to be removed.
- Contact the Police when the school feels it appropriate.
- Contact the social Network site to complain about the content posted and ask for removal of information.
- Take other legal action against the individual.