

# St John Fisher Catholic primary School

When You Love To Learn  
You Learn To Love



## Social Media Policy for Children

Spring 2023

Review 2025 or sooner if required

# Social Media Policy for Children

Person responsible: Head Teacher/ICT Leader

Linked Policies: ICT Policy

Governing body: Curriculum

## Purpose:

The internet provides a range of social media tools that allow users to communicate with each other. While recognising the benefits of these media, this policy sets out the principles that St John Fisher School's children are expected to follow.

## Guidance:

Facebook is targeted at older teenagers and adults. They have a no under-13 registration policy and recommend parental guidance for 13 to 16 year olds.

The following are extracts from Facebook privacy policy:

"If you are under age 13, please do not attempt to register for Facebook or provide any personal information about yourself to us. If we learn that we have collected personal information from a child under age 13, we will delete that information as quickly as possible. We strongly recommend that minors 13 years of age or older ask their parents for permission before sending any information about themselves to anyone over the Internet."

MSN recommend 13 but do not appear to have a policy of debarring younger pupils.

Rules for Pupils:

- No pupil under 13 should be accessing social networking sites. This is the guidance from both Facebook and MSN. There is a mechanism on Facebook where pupils can be reported via the Help screen
- No pupil may access social networking sites during the school working day
- All mobile phones must be handed into the office at the beginning of the school day. Failure to follow this guidance will result in a total ban for the student using a mobile phone.

- No pupil should attempt to join a staff member's areas on networking sites. If pupils attempt to do this, the member of staff is to inform the Head teacher. Parents will be informed if this happens
- No school computers are to be used to access social networking sites at any time of day.
- Please report any improper contact or cyber bullying to your class teacher in confidence as soon as it happens. If you see anything you don't like on the screen in school, remember you can always click on Hector the dolphin who will cover it.
- We have a zero tolerance to cyber bullying.

### Pupil Protection:

Never meet anyone in person that you've communicated with online only; communicate only with people you've met in person.

- Ensure you don't use your full name - use a nickname or only one of your names. This means only people you really know are likely to find you online.
- Be wary of other identifiable information in profile - Never mention what school you go to, where you carry out your hobbies or where you'll be at a specific time and place.
- Be smart about details in photographs - THINK - Would you like that photo to be hung up in your parent's living room? No? Then don't put it on the internet. Does the photo give a lot of detail about you, such as what Brownie club you attend/football team you play for? Yes? - Then don't put it on the internet.

These rules are here to keep YOU safe. Failure to abide by them will result in the school recommending you remove yourself from all social media outlets and we will expect your parents to agree with us.

# Staying Safe Online

## KEEP YOURSELF SAFE AND FOLLOW THE TIPS BELOW

Don't post any personal information online - like your address, email address or mobile number.

Think carefully before posting pictures or videos of yourself. Once you've put a picture of yourself online most people can see it and may be able to download it, it's not just yours anymore.

Keep your privacy settings as high as possible

Never give out your passwords

Don't befriend people you don't know

Don't meet up with people you've met online. Speak to your parent or carer about people suggesting you do

Remember that not everyone online is who they say they are

Think carefully about what you say before you post something online

Respect other people's views, even if you don't agree with someone else's views doesn't mean you need to be rude

If you see something online that makes you feel uncomfortable, unsafe or worried: leave the website, turn off your computer if you want to and tell a trusted adult immediately.

Date Approved: Spring 2023

Policy due for update: July 2025