

# RIVERSIDE SCHOOL



## Social Media Policy

APPROVED BY GOVERNORS

RESPONSIBLE PERSON – HEADTEACHER

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## **Statement of intent**

Riverside School understands that social media is a growing part of life outside of school. We have a responsibility to safeguard our pupils against potential dangers when accessing the internet at school, and to educate our pupils about how to protect themselves online when outside of school.

We are committed to:

- Encouraging the responsible use of social media in support of the school's mission, values and objectives.
- Protecting our pupils from the dangers of social media.
- Preventing and avoiding damage to the reputation of the school through irresponsible use of social media.
- Protecting our staff from cyber bullying and potentially career damaging behaviour.
- Arranging e-safety meetings for parents.

This policy should be read in conjunction with Riverside School's e-safety policy.

## **1. Key roles and responsibilities**

- 1.1. The Governing Board has overall responsibility for the implementation of the Social Media Policy and policies of Riverside School.
- 1.2. The Governing Board has responsibility for ensuring that the Social Media Policy, as written, does not discriminate on any grounds, including but not limited to: ethnicity/national origin, culture, religion, gender, disability or sexual orientation.
- 1.3. The Governing Board has responsibility for handling complaints regarding this policy as outlined in the school's Complaints Policy.
- 1.4. The Headteacher will be responsible for the day-to-day implementation and management of the Social Media Policy and procedures of Riverside School.
- 1.5. Staff, including teachers, support staff and volunteers, will be responsible for following the Social Media Policy and for ensuring pupils do so also. They will also be responsible for ensuring the policy is implemented fairly and consistently in the classroom.
- 1.6. Parents and carers will be expected to take responsibility for the social media habits of their child/children at home.
- 1.7. Parents and carers will be expected to promote safe social media behaviour.
- 1.8. The school's network manager is Tracy DeFreitas.

## **2. Definitions**

- 2.1. Riverside School defines "social media" as any online platform that offers real-time interaction between the user and other individuals or groups.
- 2.2. Riverside School defines "cyber bullying" as any use of social media or communication technology to bully an individual or group.
- 2.3. Riverside School defines "members of the school community" as any member of staff, pupil, parent/carer of pupil, governor or ex-pupil.

## **3. Training of staff**

- 3.1. At Riverside School, we recognise that early intervention can protect pupils who may be at risk of cyber bullying or negative social media behaviour. As such, teachers will receive training in identifying potentially at-risk pupils.
- 3.2. Teachers and support staff will receive training on the Social Media Policy as part of their new starter induction.
- 3.3. Teachers and support staff will receive regular and ongoing training as part of their development.

#### 4. Pupil expectations

- 4.1. Pupils are responsible for following the school rules and will be expected to follow requests from teachers.

#### 5. Social media use - staff

- 5.1. School social media passwords are kept in a password protected folder with restricted access. The passwords must never be shared.
- 5.2. The School Business Manager is responsible for the school's social media accounts.
- 5.3. Staff may not access social media during lesson time, unless it is part of a curriculum activity.
- 5.4. Members of staff must not use social media in front of pupils.
- 5.5. Members of staff **must not** "friend" or otherwise contact pupils through social media
- 5.6. Members of staff **must not** post content online which is damaging to the school or any of its staff or pupils.
- 5.7. Where staff use social media in a personal capacity, they should make it clear that their views are personal.
- 5.8. Staff must not post any information which could identify a pupil, class or the school.
- 5.9. Staff must not post anonymously or under an alias to evade the guidance given in this policy.
- 5.10. Breaches of this policy by members of staff will be taken seriously, and in the event of illegal, defamatory or discriminatory content, could lead to prosecution, disciplinary action or dismissal.
- 5.11. Staff should be aware that if their out-of-work activity brings Riverside School into disrepute, disciplinary action will be taken.
- 5.12. Members of staff should regularly check their online presence for negative content via search engines.
- 5.13. If inappropriate content is accessed online, an inappropriate website content report form should be completed and passed on to the network manager. .
- 5.14. Attempts to bully, coerce or manipulate members of the school community, via social media, by staff will be dealt with as a disciplinary matter.
- 5.15. Members of staff should not leave a computer or other device logged in when away from their desk, or save passwords.

5.16. Staff members should use their school email address for school business and personal email address for their private correspondence; the two should not be mixed.

## **6. Social media use – pupils and parents/carers**

6.1. Pupils may not access to social media during lesson time, unless it is part of a curriculum activity.

6.2. Breaches of this policy by pupils will be taken seriously, and in the event of illegal, defamatory or discriminatory content could lead to exclusion.

6.3. Pupils and parents/carers should not post anonymously or under an alias to evade the guidance given in this policy.

6.4. Pupils and parents/carers **must not** post content online which is damaging to the school or any of its staff or pupils.

6.5. Pupils at Riverside School must not sign up to social media sites that have an age restriction above the pupil's age.

6.6. If inappropriate content is accessed online on school premises, it **must** be reported to a teacher.

## **7. Blocked content**

7.1. Access to social media is restricted in line with LGFL filtering protocols, content will only be unblocked with prior approval of the Headteacher.

7.2. Attempts to circumvent the network's firewalls will result in a ban from using school computing equipment, other than with close supervision.

7.3. Inappropriate content which is accessed on the school computers should be reported to the network manager) so that the site can be blocked.

7.4. Requests may be made to access erroneously blocked content by submitting a "[blocked content access](#)" form to the Network Manager.

7.5. The final decision on whether access should be granted to a site will be made by the headteacher.

## **8. Cyber bullying**

8.1. At Riverside School, cyber bullying is taken seriously.

8.2. Incidents of cyber bullying will be dealt with and reported along the same chain as the Anti-Bullying Policy.

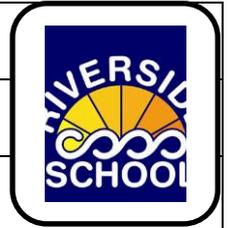
- 8.3. Staff members should never respond or retaliate to cyberbullying incidents. Incidents should instead be reported as inappropriate, and support sought from their line manager or senior staff member.
- 8.4. Evidence from the incident should be saved, including screen prints of messages or web pages, and the time and date of the incident.
- 8.5. Where the perpetrator is a current pupil or colleague, most cases can be dealt with through the school's own disciplinary procedures.
- 8.6. Where the perpetrator is an adult, in nearly all cases, a senior staff member should invite the victim to a meeting to address their concerns. Where appropriate, the perpetrator will be asked to remove the offensive content.
- 8.7. If the perpetrator refuses to comply, it is up to the school to decide what to do next. This could include contacting the internet service provider in question through their reporting mechanisms, if the offensive content breaches their terms and conditions.
- 8.8. If the material is threatening, abusive, sexist, of a sexual nature or constitutes a hate crime, the school should consider contacting the police.
- 8.9. As part of our on-going commitment to the prevention of cyber bullying, regular education and discussion about e-safety will take place as part of computing and PSHE.

## 9. Be SMART online

- 9.1. Where appropriate we encourage pupils to take a SMART approach to social media behaviour:
  - **Safe** – Do not give out personal information, or post photos of yourself to people you talk to online. Follow age restriction rules.
  - **Meeting** – Do not meet somebody you have only met online. We encourage parents/carers to speak regularly to their children about who they are talking to online.
  - **Accepting** – We advise that pupils only open emails and other forms of communication from people they already know.
  - **Reliable** – We teach pupils about the dangers of believing everything they see online.
  - **Tell** – We encourage pupils to tell a teacher, parent or carer if they see anything online that makes them feel uncomfortable.

## Appendix 1 – Blocked content access form

### Blocked website content access request form



Name:

Full URL:

Site content:

Reasons:

Risks:

Approved

- Yes
- No

Reason:

## Appendix 2 – Inappropriate content report form

### Inappropriate website content report form



Name:

Full URLs:

General site content:

Nature of inappropriate content:

Safeguarding issue?

Site blocked (Date):

Signed

Date

## Appendix 3 – Social media home school agreement form



### Parental Social Media Agreement

I, \_\_\_\_\_ understand the importance of responsible social media use. I understand the details of this policy and I agree to these terms. If appropriate, I will discuss the terms of this policy and general internet safety with \_\_\_\_\_ and monitor their use of social media. I also agree to intervene where there is inappropriate behaviour

#### Signed by

Parent/carer	Date:
Class	Date:

## Appendix 4

### Contact details for social networking sites

Social networking site	Useful links
Ask. Fm	<a href="#">Terms of service</a> <a href="#">Safety tips</a>
BBM	<a href="#">Rules and safety</a>
Facebook	<a href="#">Rules</a> <a href="#">Report to Facebook</a> <a href="#">Safety Centre</a>
Instagram	<a href="#">Rules</a> <a href="#">Report to Instagram</a> <a href="#">Safety Centre</a>
Kik Messenger	<a href="#">Rules</a> <a href="#">Report to Kik</a> <a href="#">Help Centre</a>
Snapchat	<a href="#">Rules</a> <a href="#">Report to Snapchat</a> <a href="#">Safety tips for parents</a>
Tumblr	<a href="#">Rules</a> <a href="#">Report to Tumblr</a> If you email Tumblr, take a screenshot as evidence and attach it.
Twitter	<a href="#">Rules</a> <a href="#">Report to Twitter</a>
Vine	<a href="#">Rules</a> <a href="#">Contacting Vine and reporting</a>
YouTube	<a href="#">Rules</a> <a href="#">Report to YouTube</a> <a href="#">Safety Centre</a>