



Thorndown Pre-School

Policy on Inappropriate Community Use of Social Networking and Internet Sites

Our aspiration is that Thorndown Primary will be an outstanding school.

We value and respect everyone in our community and work as a team to:

- Provide learning experiences which support and inspire high achievement for all ;
- Ensure a caring, safe and welcoming environment;
- Promote co-operative and responsible attitudes to make a positive contribution;
- Actively encourage independence and confidence to thrive in a changing world.

“Happy, Healthy, High Achievers”

Approved at Learning & Development committee meeting on: 29 September 2016

Review Period: 2 years

Date for next review: Autumn 2018

Policy on Inappropriate Community Use of Social Networking and Internet Sites

Introduction

Due to the rising popularity of social networking sites such as Facebook and Twitter, the staff and governors have agreed that they will be setting a good example to the children in our school, when using these sites. We would like to invite the members of our community to do the same.

Objectives

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Safeguard pupils, staff and anyone associated with the school from the negative effects of social networking sites;
- Safeguard the reputation of the school from unwarranted abuse on social networking sites;
- Clarify what the school considers to be appropriate and inappropriate use of social networking sites by the community;
- Set out the actions the school will consider taking if it considers members of the community have inappropriately or unlawfully used social networking sites to the detriment of the school, its staff, its pupils, school governors or volunteers.

Good Practice

The purpose of this policy is to invite all members of the community to join staff in setting a good example for our children by:

- Demonstrating courtesy and respect for staff, other members of the community and pupils when comments are placed on social networking sites;
- Using appropriate language when discussing school;
- Addressing any issues or concerns regarding school, directly with the Headteacher, member of staff or governors.

All members of the community are invited to join staff in setting a good example for our children by not:

- Using social network sites to make derogatory comments or posting photographs which could bring staff into disrepute, including making comments about pupils, members of the community, other staff members, the senior leadership team, governors, local authority or the wider community;
- Posting photographs of other people's children on social network sites without their permission.

The school's promise to members of the community:

- We will meet with you and use the Governing Bodies policies and procedures to resolve concerns;
- We will work hard to resolve any concerns in the best interest of the whole community;
- We will act in the best interest of the whole community and honour our duty of care to our children;
- We will never conduct school business through social network sites only inform.

The school's duty of care to staff members:

The governing body has a duty of care to all the members of the school community, and to protect the reputation of the school itself. Of course, the best way to resolve issues is through dialogue with the complainant, and this is the course of action that the school will follow in the first instance. However, the governing body reserves the right to take action in the case where social media continues to be used inappropriately, and this action may include one or more of the following steps:

- Take legal advice and/or legal action where the information posted is defamatory in any way or if the circumstances warrant this;
- Set out the School's concerns to the members of the community in writing, giving a warning and requesting that the material in question is removed;
- Contact the Police where the school feels it appropriate – for example, if it considers a crime (such as harassment) has been committed; or in cases where the posting has a racial element, is considered to be grossly obscene or is threatening violence;
- If the inappropriate comments have been made on a school website or online forum, the school may take action to block or restrict that individual's access to that website or forum;
- Contact the host/provider of the social networking site to complain about the content of the site and ask for removal of the information;
- Take other legal action against the individual as advised.