

Social Media Acceptable Use for Parents and Carers at Hatfield Peverel Infant and Nursery School

Most people take part in online activities and social media. It is fun, interesting and keeps us connected. There are various online school groups managed by parents for parents and carers, such as WhatsApp. It is a parent/carer's decision to join and act appropriately within these spaces; however, we ask that you use common sense when discussing school life online.

Think before you post…



We ask that social media, whether public or private, should not be used to fuel campaigns and voice complaints against the school, school staff, parents or pupils. We take very seriously inappropriate use of social media by a parent/carer to publicly humiliate or criticise another parent, pupil or member of staff.

We expect parents and carers on social media to:

- Respect the ethos, vision and values of our schools
- Work together with staff in the best interests of our pupils
- Treat all members of the school community with respect – setting a good example with speech and behaviour
- Seek a peaceful solution to all issues
- Correct their own child's behaviour (or those in their care), particularly in public, where it could lead to conflict, aggression or unsafe conduct
- Approach the right member of school staff to help resolve any issues of concern

If parents/carers have any concerns about their child in relation to the school, they should:

1. Initially contact the class teacher
2. If the concern remains, they should contact the school office who can direct the concern to a member of the School Leadership Team
3. If the concern continues, they should contact the Headteacher
4. If the concern is still unresolved, they should contact the school governors through the complaints procedure

They should not use social media as a medium to air any concerns or grievances. **Please note that Ofsted will not become involved in a concern/complaint unless the steps above have been followed.**

Online activity which we consider inappropriate:

1. Identifying or posting images/videos of pupils
2. Abusive or personal comments about staff, pupils or other parents
3. Bringing the school into disrepute
4. Posting defamatory or libellous comments
5. Emails circulated or sent directly with abusive or personal comments about staff or pupils
6. Using social media to publicly challenge school policies or discuss issues about individual children
7. Threatening behaviour, such as verbally intimidating staff, or using bad language
8. Breaching school security procedures

We are value-based schools and encourage our parents and carers to approach online communications in this manner too.

At our schools we take our safeguarding responsibilities seriously and will deal with any reported incidents appropriately in line with the actions outlined above.

Mrs Z. Fairbairn Mrs. B. Black