



Whitwick St John the Baptist CE Primary School
Online Safety – Notice to Parents

Online Safety is an important part of keeping children safe at School. We can only be successful in keeping all of our children safe online if we work with you to ensure that online safety messages are consistent and that all members of the community behave safely and appropriately online.

We request your support in ensuring our children have responsible online role models when posting and sharing content on social media sites. Whilst we are all entitled to have our own views and opinions, we would like to ask that all members of our school community consider how our comments may be misunderstood or misinterpreted when shared online and the possible impact and consequences on others of our online actions.

We are aware that social media websites are increasingly being used to air parental concerns. The school considers the use of social media in this way to be inappropriate and not in the best interests of the children or the school community as a whole. This is because it can have a detrimental impact on the school and potentially the children's education; whilst not allowing the School to actually address concerns. We are keen to hear any concerns that you may have, but we are requesting your support in ensuring that this takes place through the appropriate channels. We are therefore reminding parents and carers of the School's procedures in order for this to take place. If you do have any concerns or are anxious about your child, please speak to the class teacher first. If you have an ongoing concern and feel it is not being addressed then make an appointment to speak to Mrs Killip. If you remain concerned the Complaints Policy is on the web site or available from the office. Raising concerns through official school channels, rather than posting them on social networking sites, will ensure that concerns are dealt with fairly, appropriately and effectively for all concerned.

In the event that it comes to our attention that libellous or defamatory comments have been posted on Facebook or any other Social media concerning the School or its staff or pupils, the person(s) responsible will be reported to the appropriate 'report abuse' section of the network site. All social network sites have clear rules about the content, which can be posted on the site, and they provide robust mechanisms to report content or activity that breaches this. The school will also expect that the responsible person(s) remove such comments immediately. In serious cases the school will also consider its legal options to deal with any such misuse of social networking and other sites.

I would like to ask all parents/carers to think carefully about the information and comments which are posted online. As responsible adults, it is important that we all consider the potential impact and implications posting such content may have on us and our families as well as other members of the school community. I would also like to remind all parents/carers about the need for us all to work in partnership together to promote responsible internet use and also to highlight how important your role is in setting a good example of positive and responsible online behaviour for your children.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank parents for their support.