

Wickersley St Alban's C.E. Primary School



10th October 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you have all settled back into school routines and your child is enjoying their new class! Please see below the school's response to the use of social media. We are very keen to continue the strong partnership we have with all of our parents: we should be your first port of call if you have concerns.

Social media and school

Social media (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.) has had widespread impact on the way in which we communicate and express our thoughts and opinions. There are clearly many benefits for us both as individuals and also as communities. Unfortunately we are also experiencing an increasing number of situations where social media has been the vehicle for inappropriate behaviour by both students and parents.

We live in a society where we are justifiably proud of our right to freedom of speech and would not wish to suggest that this should be curtailed in any way. There are occasions however, when things said in the virtual world are at best unhelpful and, at worst, may constitute harassment, bullying or intimidation, which could ultimately lead to Police involvement.

All of the staff in our school work tremendously hard to provide the very best education for our students and always want to work in partnership with our parents. However, we recognise that there will be occasions where, for whatever reason, parents may not agree with something we have introduced or may have specific concerns.

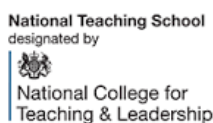
It is entirely natural to discuss school life and express our thoughts and opinions with others face to face or on the phone. Some of these conversations are now also being aired on social media and the person posting has little control over who might ultimately see it.

Sadly, some of these comments and observations could cause offence if aired in the public domain, and may in some cases be intimidating or even slanderous.

This is not to suggest that we as a school are above criticism or do not welcome feedback. However, it is always best when this is constructive and reasonable and is focused on finding an acceptable solution. When difficult things need to be said, it is usually best to do so face- to-face, or at least in some form of private communication, such as an e-mail or letter. Unfortunately when concerns are aired on social media this can also hinder our ability as school leaders to investigate concerns thoroughly.

If you are posting on social media and it relates to the school, students or other parents, please check your facts, be considerate in the way in which you express things and avoid language that others might consider to be abusive, aggressive or threatening. Please do not refer to individual students or staff on social media. If you have a significant concern about an aspect of school life, please talk to someone at the school before posting on social media. We are always here to listen to your concerns and see if we can help.

Alison Adair Executive Headteacher



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