



Oxenhope Church of England Primary School

Social Media Policy

September 2018



Created By:	Date:	Next Review Date:
A Jones	September 2018	September 2021

We are a community where each person is valued by God. We nurture confidence, delight and discipline in seeking the skills needed to shape life well.

Life in all its fullness; John Chapter 10 v 10.

At Oxenhope CE Primary School, we believe in a broad, balanced and creative curriculum, which provides *each child* with a chance to flourish and achieve their potential by becoming successful, life-long learners who are able to enjoy life in all its fullness. Our Christian ethos, character and values pervade Oxenhope CE Primary ensuring the exceptional personal development and academic achievement of the whole child, as well as the overall 'well-being' of the school community. The school is wholehearted in its commitment, putting faith and spiritual development at the heart of the curriculum.

Christian beliefs and practices that underpin this policy

<p>Love / Compassion</p> 	<p>'Love your neighbour as yourself' Luke 10 v 27 Just like Jesus was 'moved with compassion' we want to instil the children of Oxenhope with selfless kindness towards others. The ultimate aim is to do good to other people, whoever they may be.</p>
<p>Service / Community</p> 	<p>'Serve one another in love' Galatians 5 v14 At Oxenhope we actively seek opportunities to work together to help others. As even Jesus washed the disciple's feet we can learn from his example and seek to do good where we can, both locally and globally.</p>
<p>Wisdom</p> 	<p>'Blessed are those who find wisdom, those who gain understanding.' Proverbs 3 v 13 As the children at Oxenhope are faced with situations and dilemmas, we endeavour to teach and direct them to make wise choices which will develop their characters and shape their lives. Wisdom is rooted in a proper reverence for God, the source of all life and values.</p>
<p>Forgiveness</p> 	<p>'Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who have sinned against us.' Luke 11 v 4 These are the words we quote in our school prayer. As we appreciate how much we have been forgiven, we can forgive others.</p>
<p>Courage</p> 	<p>"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go." Joshua 1 v 9 It is important that the children go from Oxenhope with a determined strength that they can bravely overcome whatever challenges they are faced with.</p>
<p>Endurance / Hope</p> 	<p>'Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.' Romans 12 v 12 Jesus' followers are challenged to think of life like a race. However - NOT a short sprint but a marathon! The bible says that we are made stronger for the future every time we endure and refuse to give up. We teach our children to persevere and not give up hope.</p>
<p>Truth</p> 	<p>'Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ' Ephesians 4 v 15 We teach the children to be full of integrity and honesty, knowing the difference between right and wrong. If they have strong moral principles they will be the much needed light in this world. As Jesus said 'the truth will set you free.'</p>

Social media and social networking sites play an important role in the lives of many people. We recognise that sites bring risks, but equally there are many benefits to be reaped. This gives clarity to the way in which social media/mobile phones are to be used by pupils, governors, visitors, parent helpers and school staff at Oxenhope CE Primary. It will also provide guidance for parents.

There are four key areas:

- A. Use of social networking by staff in a personal capacity
- B. The use of social networking sites by pupils within school
- C. Comments posted by parents/carers
- D. Dealing with incidents of online bullying

Policy Governance (Roles & Responsibilities)

All Staff

- A. Use of social networking by staff in a personal capacity

It is possible that a high proportion of staff will have their own social networking site accounts. It is important for them to protect their professional reputation by ensuring that they use their personal accounts in an appropriate manner.

□ Staff must confirm by email to the Designated Safeguarding Leads or Deputy Safeguarding Leads (John Parkin, Alice Jones, Gillian Dyson) whether they have any social media accounts such as Facebook or Twitter. They also have to advise whether they have any 'friends' on social media who are current pupils or ex pupils (having left in the last 5 years) and their relationship to them. A nil return is required.

□ Staff are strongly **advised** not to add parents as 'friends' into their personal accounts.

□ Staff are recommended not use their own personal twitter account to follow the School twitter account.

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□ Under no circumstances should staff share or upload student photos online other than via school owned social media accounts

- Staff must not post comments about the school, pupils, parents or colleagues including members of the Governing Body.
- Staff must not use social networking sites within lesson times (for personal use).
- Staff should only use social networking in a way that does not conflict with the current National Teacher's Standards.
- Staff should review and adjust their privacy settings to give them the appropriate level of privacy and confidentiality.
- Staff must ensure that confidentiality is maintained on social media even after they leave the employment of the school.
- Inappropriate use by staff should be referred to the Headteacher in the first instance and may lead to disciplinary action.

All Pupils

B. The use of social networking sites by pupils within school.

In terms of private use of social networking sites by a child it is generally understood that children under the age of 13 are not permitted to register on sites such as Facebook and Instagram.

Other networking sites aimed at children should not be used/accessed in school unless under the direction of a teacher and for a purpose clearly apparent from the learning objective of the relevant learning experience.

Parents and Carers

C. Comments posted by parents/carers

Parents and carers are reminded of their responsibilities regarding their use of social networking. Methods of school communication include the prospectus, the website, newsletters, letters and verbal discussion. School policies and documents provide further information regarding appropriate channels of communication and means of resolving differences of opinion. Effective communication following principles of mutual respect is the best means of ensuring the best learning experiences for the child.

□ Parents must not post pictures of pupils, other than their own children, on social networking sites where these photographs have been taken at a school event.

□ Parents should make complaints through official school channels rather than posting them on social networking sites.

□ Parents should not post malicious or fictitious comments on social networking sites about any member of the school community.

Dealing with incidents of online bullying/inappropriate use of social networking sites

All cases of online bullying will be dealt with in accordance with the school's Peer to Peer Abuse policy, Online Safety Policy and Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy. The school can take action with reference to any incident that takes place outside school hours if it:

□ Could have repercussions for the orderly running of the school.

□ Poses a threat to a member of the school community.

□ Could adversely affect the reputation of the school, or its employees/governors.

Where appropriate, legal action will be taken by the school's governors.