



DUBAI GEM PRIVATE SCHOOL

STRIVE FOR EXCELLENCE



Social Media Policy

SCOPE OF THIS POLICY

Social media presents opportunities for both schools and individuals to communicate with new and existing audiences. Whilst recognising the benefits of social media, this policy sets out the expectations that all Dubai Gem staff, students and parents are expected to follow when using personal or school sanctioned accounts. This will help the School to embrace these new technologies, whilst at the same time prioritising the safeguarding of children.

PRINCIPLES

The School endeavours to adopt a common-sense pragmatic approach to the use of social media.

Everyone should be aware of their digital footprint and how they can protect their identity online.

As a community we need to ensure that communication is polite and presents the school in a positive light.

It is essential that our top priority remains the safeguarding of children.

EXPECTATIONS

For all

Content should not be published by staff, students or parents, on any social network, personal or school sanctioned, that could bring the School into disrepute.

Social Media and Education

Staff members, who wish to use social media accounts for educational purposes, should ensure these have been authorised by the Principal

Staff who use Social Media must only use them to communicate with a Group. For example, a teacher might set up a group for a class on Facebook or Yammer, or publish.

Use of Pupil Images on Social Media

When using school sanctioned accounts, staff should ensure they only publish images when parental permission has been granted. Student surnames should not be included in any comments, messages or posts.

The School will minimise the risk to children of putting images of pupils on Social Media through the following steps:

Staff should avoid displaying images of young children in shorts/swimwear etc., especially those less than 14 years of age.

Staff must not use full names of pupils or specific year group should be shown.

In the Primary Schools, the principle of “**Faces without Names; Names without Faces**” should apply.

Staff may take photographs of pupils for use on social media so long as they don't store them on their phones – i.e. the image must be deleted within 24 hours and must not be distributed to anyone outside the organisation.

Social Media and Communication between Staff and Pupils:

All staff must not enter into personal communications with students (i.e. 'direct message' students) using social media accounts.

The only acceptable channels of personal communication between staff and pupils are those set up by the School, where the school reserves the right to monitor communication (and thus protect staff from allegations).

Parent & Pupil Expectations of Social Media Use.

Parents and students in all Year levels using any social media forum must, at all times, demonstrate respect for the members of the school community, including all students and personnel.

Parents and students must not breach confidentiality, defame or make threats to any person in the school community.

Instances of proven and intentional breach of the above will result in sanctions that may include suspension from the school or refusal to re-enrol the student for the next academic year.

Appropriate Age for Social Media Accounts

In accordance with the terms and conditions of many popular social networks (e.g. Facebook), the School recommends that no children, under the age of 13, should have publicly visible social media accounts

THE SCHOOL NETWORK – WHICH SOCIAL MEDIA SITES ARE ACCESSIBLE.

Parents should be aware that:

Giving children Smartphones with high internet speed & efficiency is to give them unrestricted access to the Internet.

Any measures the School takes to reduce access to Social Media sites though Webfiltering its Internet access can be negated Smartphone Internet access through 3G/4G.

The School blocks the following Social Media sites on its WIFI network that is accessible to pupils:

Facebook /Instagram/Google Hangouts/Snapchat– because it is a distraction during the School working day.

YouTube is restricted during lesson time because live streaming / downloads can affect the ability of teachers to perform their duties.

The School does not block the following Social Media sites on its WIFI network that is accessible to pupils:

Whats App – because it is a primary means of communication between parents and their children.

Twitter – because it is a primary means of communicating School news to students, parents, and the wider community.

HELP AND SUPPORT

5.1 Additional help and support on how to apply privacy settings on popular social media sites:

Twitter <https://support.twitter.com/articles/20169886>

Instagram <https://help.instagram.com/116024195217477/>

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/help/325807937506242/>

Snapchat <https://support.snapchat.com/a/privacy-settings>

You tube <https://support.google.com/youtube/answer/157177?hl=en>

Reviewed: September 2023