

SOCIAL NETWORKING AND FAIRHOLME PRIMARY SCHOOL



Fairholme Primary School is privileged to have a hard-working team of staff committed to developing your child's education and improving the school. Our school is committed to

the wellbeing of all our children, as well as to teaching and learning. We promote six core values – **respect, honesty, responsibility, kindness, self-belief and aspiration.**

Increasing numbers of adults and children are using social networking sites and messaging apps, including Facebook, Twitter, Tumblr, Instagram, MSN and many others to communicate with each other. This creates many positive and innovative opportunities to understand, engage and communicate with each other in new ways. It is important that we are able to use these technologies and services effectively and flexibly. However, it is also important to ensure that we maintain communication in a respectful and helpful manner, in line with the school's values.

We expect children, staff and parents to adhere to a respectful code of conduct regarding online posts.

Before you...



THINK!

T = Is it True?
H = Is it Helpful?
I = Is it Inspiring?
N = Is it Necessary?
K = Is it Kind?

As a school, we welcome feedback from parents/carers and will always try to resolve any concerns as quickly as possible. However, it has come to our attention that a small number of parents have used social networking to make inappropriate comments about other families, children, members of staff or school activities.

If you have concerns about anything that happens in school, please speak to your child's class teacher in the first instance, or to the Year Group Leader or senior member of staff, who will do their best to resolve the matter. As a school, we prefer to speak to our families in person, and do not engage with, or respond to, comments on social media. We will, however, take further advice about inappropriate, defamatory or negative comments which damage members of our community or the reputation of the school.

Parents/carers should refrain from posting any pictures that include children from school on social media sites, as we do not have permission from the parents of other children to do this.

Statements, defamatory or otherwise, can have the same legal consequences as if they were made directly to another person and in some cases criminal offences can be considered under a number of Acts including but not limited to the Malicious Communications Act 1988, Communications Act 2003, Protection from Harassment Act 1997, Criminal Justice Act 2004 and Public Order Act 1986. Consequences for criminal offences under the above legislation include cautions, fines and significant prison sentences.

Most parents/carers will be aware of the potential threats posed to children who use social networking, and the school can provide families with guidance about how to keep children safe whilst using the internet. Staying safe online is also part of our school curriculum.

Taking an interest in what your child is accessing online is key. As a general guide, closed/private network groups or messaging apps make it difficult to monitor a child's activities online. Posting photographs online of children is also to be discouraged. If your child appears secretive about online sites or communications, this should also raise alarm bells.

Social networking sites, such as Facebook, MSN and others, require children to be at least 13 years old, and even then suggest parental guidance for children older than 13. The school has a duty to report any social networking accounts that come to light which are linked to children under 13 years of age.

The internet and modern technology offer amazing opportunities for broadening horizons, deepening learning, encouraging curiosity, sharing information, and communicating and networking more widely. But we urge parents and carers to be vigilant, and to be positive role models in communicating appropriately online.