

Social Media Policy for Students

At St John's and King Richard Schools, we realise the importance of teachers, students and parents engaging, collaborating, learning, and sharing in digital environments, as part of 21st century learning.

Along with the growth in the use of these types of communication, there has also been a marked increase in the number of criminal offences committed under the Telecommunications Act, Malicious Communications Act, the Protection of Children Act or the Criminal Justice Act.

Due to the wealth of new social media, students have the ability to reach audiences far beyond the classroom. This translates into the need for a greater level of awareness and responsibility for all users.

In recognition of this, St John's and King Richard Schools have developed the following policy to provide direction that students must adhere to when using social media.

Social Media Definition

Forms of electronic communication (e.g. Web sites for any type of social networking) through which users create online communities to share information, ideas, personal messages, and other content (as videos).

Key Principles

Interacting with each other on-line is no different than interacting face-to-face: we are required to maintain the principles of respect, dignity, care, concern for and protection of others, and safety in all interactions. Activities which are inappropriate, unethical, illegal, or which cause undue discomfort for members of the school community (including students, employees, parents, or others) should be avoided in written communications, and cyberspace. What is considered inappropriate in the classroom is inappropriate online.

Students who participate in online interactions must remember that their posts reflect on the entire St John's, King Richard and BFC community and, as such, are subject to the same standards set forth in the various school behaviour, e-safety and anti-bullying policies.

Online Interaction & Identity

1. Be aware of what you post online. Social media venues are very public. What you contribute leaves a permanent digital footprint for all to see. Do not post anything you wouldn't want friends, parents, teachers, or a future employer to see, as you can't control posted data once it is on the web.

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2. How you represent yourself online is an extension of yourself. Do not misrepresent yourself by using someone else's identity.
3. Students must obey the age limits and other general rules of social media sites.
4. Students are expected to abide by the following:
 - To protect the privacy of SJS and KRS students, students may not, under any circumstances, create digital video recordings or take photographs of our School community members either at school or whilst attending activities outside of school premises for online publication or distribution without prior permission from a named member of staff.
 - Students may not use social media sites to publish unpleasant or harassing remarks about any members of our School communities.
 - Students who choose to post editorial content or photographs to websites or other forms of online social media (including their own personal social media sites) must ensure that their submission does not reflect poorly upon either the school or its members.
 - To protect the reputation of SJS and KRS students, students may not, under any circumstances post photographs or videos of themselves or other students to websites or other forms of online social media (including their own personal social media sites) acting unlawfully, unethically or inappropriately whilst at school, attending school activities outside of school premises or wearing school uniform.
 - Use of the School's name, logo or other intellectual property (documents produced by the school or students) may not be used on students own personal social media sites without first obtaining permission from the School.
 - When creating independent groups or Fan pages students must obtain prior permission from the Schools before using the School's name, logo, uniform or photos of the school or other intellectual property (documents produced by the school or students).
 - Failure to abide by this Policy, as with other policies at SJS or KRS School may result in disciplinary action as described in the Behaviour, Anti bullying or E-safety policies, or as determined by the Senior Leadership Team or Head Teacher. Any criminal offences using social media will immediately be referred to the police.

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5. The use of social media (Facebook, myspace, twitter, etc.) is not permitted during school time unless specifically authorised by a teacher.

Privacy

1. Exercise care with privacy settings and personal profile content, to ensure that posted content does not reflect poorly on the school in any way or otherwise create a conflict of interest. Content should be placed thoughtfully and reviewed from time to time.
2. Be safe online. Never give out personal information, including, but not limited to, last names, phone numbers, addresses, exact birth dates, and pictures.
3. Always respect the privacy of others.

Failure to abide by this policy, as with other policies at SJS or KRS School, may result in disciplinary action as described in the Behaviour, Anti bullying or E-Safety policies, or as determined by the Senior Leadership Team or the Head teacher.

Any criminal offences using social media will be referred to the police. The misuse of social media may lead to a criminal record.

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