

SOCIAL MEDIA

POLICY

Buangor Primary School

Rationale:

- Social networking using sites such as Facebook and Twitter is a world-wide phenomenon which will involve the vast majority of our students and their families. Consequently, it is highly appropriate that our school teaches students how to engage in social networking effectively, responsibly and safely.

Aims:

- For all students to become aware of mainstream social networking sites whilst learning the skills to maintain their safety, security and privacy at all times.

Implementation:

- Social networking refers to internet-based online social communications sites such as Facebook and Twitter
- Social network sites provide powerful opportunities for individuals to connect with friends and strangers throughout the world, but at the same time, can expose the unwary to hazards and dangers that users must proactively avoid.
- Social networking is a world-wide phenomenon with which the vast majority of students and their families will engage. Consequently, students must be skilled and informed about the advantages, disadvantages, opportunities and potential dangers associated with social networks.
- Social networking will form an essential element of our school's curriculum, including studies of Facebook and Twitter and similar mainstream networking sites.
- Students will be informed about the potential dangers of online social networking, and gain experiences in identifying and eliminating potentially dangerous behaviour.
- Students will be made aware of cyber-bullying, its impact on others, how to avoid and respond to cyber-bullying, and the legal implications and consequences of cyber-bullying.
- Students found to be using the school's technologies or internet services inappropriately for any purpose (including unauthorised or unreasonable use of social networking sites) can expect to be dealt with in a manner consistent with our Student Code of Conduct including prohibited internet access.
- Staff members will not engage in social networks with students other than as part of the educational program. They will not '*friend*' students on personal social networks.
- Students will be explicitly taught the safe, smart & responsible use of ICT.
- The school community will actively promote an eSmart culture which is in keeping with the values of the school.

Evaluation:

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle.

This policy was last ratified by School Council on....

August 2017.