

Wilton and Barford CE VC Primary School



Social Networking Policy

Date:	22/11/2011	Review Date:	January 2014
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We acknowledge that social networking has become part of everyday life with many people of all ages using social networking sites such as Facebook, Twitter, MSN, MySpace and Bebo on a daily basis.

Many feel that there are valid reasons for exploring the educational benefits of these sites because research shows that the most discussed topics on these sites by young people are those dealing with homework and lessons.

However, school based staff need to be aware that 'posting' anything on these social networking sites about themselves, others or their place of work must be prepared for the possibility that anyone could gain access to it. This has been a major factor in identity theft.

In terms of teacher's use of social networking and the web, they must be careful what information is posted.

The following recommendations should be considered if using social networking websites:

- Be wary of what photographs you put online of yourself, family or friends.
- Remember you must have friends' permission to publish.
- Bear in mind that somebody else could post a photo on their profile in which you are named, so think about any photos you appear in. On Facebook, you can 'untag' yourself from a photo. If you do find inappropriate references to you and/or images of you posted by a 'friend' online you should contact them and the site to have the material removed
- Make your profiles 'invite' only and thus only allow people you trust with certainty to view your information.
- Do not discuss your work.
- Do not publish photographs with children taken at your work.
- Do not discuss your political or religious views.
- Be careful what viewpoints you express.
- If you do post anything online be mindful of the fact you could lose total control of it.
- Be careful of what other people post on your profile. You might be careful but are your friends?
- Remember that there is a growing trend for schools/colleges to access social networking sites before interviewing job applicants. Depending on the comments and/or images contained on your site you may not be selected for interview.
- Consider that colleagues, including management, might access your profile. Depending on the comments and/or images it contains, you may face disciplinary action.
- Ensure anything you post is in accordance with the General Teaching Council (GTC) code of conduct. Specifically, the eighth principle of the GTC Code of Conduct in England states a teacher must "demonstrate honesty and integrity and uphold public trust and confidence in the teaching profession"

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Teachers using social networking are advised to:

- Ensure privacy settings are used to control who can see your profile and personal information.
- Avoid adding pupils or parents as friends and keep any contact to a strictly professional context.
- Consider carefully the subjects that they discuss.
- Avoid information or conversations that could compromise your professional integrity.
- Avoid embarrassing wall posts, discuss whether you are happy for images to be posted and un-tag any undesirable photos.
- Use the 'Block' feature to stop specific people viewing their profile.

There are many professional and personal benefits to be obtained through social networking sites. Building these simple procedures into your routine should help you get the most from the sites while maintaining a confident and positive digital profile.

Effectiveness

We believe this policy will be effective only if we ensure consistency across the school by regular monitoring.

Headteacher:		Date:	
Chair of Governors:		Date:	

CHILD PROTECTION STATEMENT

At Wilton and Barford Primary School, we believe that every child has the right to be safe and therefore to be cared for in a way that ensures her/his safety and meets her/his individual needs. We recognise that all children need protection at all times from anything or anyone that may cause them harm and work together following the Child Protection Policy to ensure this. We respect all members of the school's community and treat information with confidentiality.