



MOSSCROFT PRIMARY SCHOOL

“Small school, big heart ... nurturing potential, inspiring confidence.”

SOCIAL NETWORKING POLICY

Policy Ethos Statement

At Mosscroft Primary School the staff, children, parents and governors work together in partnership. We acknowledge that everyone is special, valued, safeguarded and has equal opportunities.

The Aims of Mosscroft School

- Create a well organised, safe and happy school community in which each individual is valued, and therefore able to become a responsible, independent and confident person.
- Encourage all children to achieve their true potential through structured and stimulating teaching, by providing a balanced and appropriate curriculum.
- Foster in each child the ability to think, question and discuss rationally so that every child can achieve academically, creatively and physically. Children learn and develop at different rates and we will endeavour to help, encourage and motivate each child in our care.
- Set realistic standards of discipline, behaviour and moral values within an atmosphere of support and mutual respect in partnership with parents. This will be in line with the School's Safeguarding Policies.
- Reflect and celebrate the diversity of the wider community that we serve.

Introduction

Social networking activities conducted online outside work, such as blogging (writing personal journals to publicly accessible internet pages), involvement in social networking sites such as Facebook, Myspace or Twitter and posting material, images or comments on sites such as You Tube can have a negative effect on an organisation's reputation or image. In addition, Mosscroft Primary School has a firm commitment to safeguarding children in all aspects of its work. This policy has been written to set out the key principles and code of conduct that we expect of all members of staff with respect to their responsibilities in connection with the use of social networking sites.

Key Principles

- Everyone (staff, governors, friends and anyone working in a voluntary capacity) at Mosscroft Primary School has a responsibility to ensure that they protect the reputation of the school, and to treat colleagues and members of the school with professionalism and respect.
- It is important to protect everyone (staff, governors, friends and anyone working in a voluntary capacity) at Mosscroft Primary School from allegations and misinterpretations which can arise from the use of social networking sites.
- Safeguarding children is a key responsibility of all members of staff and it is essential that everyone (staff, governors, friends and anyone working in a voluntary capacity) at Mosscroft Primary School considers this and acts responsibly if they are using social networking sites out of school. **Anyone working in the school either as a paid employee must not communicate with Mosscroft Primary children via social networking.**
- This policy relates to social networking outside work. Blogging and accessing social networking sites at work using school equipment is not permitted.

Aims

- To set out the key principles and code of conduct expected of all members of staff, governors, friends and volunteers at Mosscroft School with respect to social networking.
- To further safeguard and protect children and staff.

Code of Conduct for everyone (staff, governors, friends and anyone working in a voluntary capacity) at Mosscroft Primary School – Social Networking

The following are **not considered acceptable** at Mosscroft Primary School:

- The use of the school's name, logo, or any other published material without written prior permission from the Head teacher. This applies to any published material including the internet or written documentation.
- The posting of any communication or images which links the school to any form of illegal conduct or which may damage the reputation of the school. **This includes defamatory comments.**
- The disclosure of confidential or business-sensitive information; or the disclosure of information or images that could compromise the security of the school, eg data / personal pupil information.

In addition to the above everyone (staff, governors, friends and anyone working in a voluntary capacity) at Mosscroft Primary School must ensure that they:

- Do not make any derogatory, defamatory, rude, threatening or inappropriate comments about the school, or anyone at or connected with the school.
- Use social networking sites responsibly and ensure that neither their personal/professional reputation, nor the school's reputation is compromised by inappropriate postings.
- Are aware of the potential of on-line identity fraud and to be cautious when giving out personal information about themselves which may compromise their personal safety and security.

Potential and Actual Breaches of the Code of Conduct

In instances where there has been a breach of the above Code of Conduct, the following will apply:

- Any breaches of this policy will be fully investigated. Where it is found that there has been a breach of the policy this may result in action being taken under the Disciplinary Procedure. A breach of this policy will be considered to be a serious disciplinary offence which is also contrary to the school's ethos and principles.
- The Governing Body will take appropriate action in order to protect the school's reputation and that of its staff, parents, governors, children and anyone else directly linked to the school.

Agreed by

Mrs P. France

Head teacher

Date:

Agreed by

Mr N. Bowmaker

Chair of Governors

Date:

Policy Reviewed: February 2018

Policy review date: