



January 2018

Dear Parent / Carer

The Joseph Whitaker Family of Schools

As a group of schools, we always value both positive feedback and constructive criticism from all stakeholders. With the increased use of social media in society we are aware that some comments are made about our schools and in some cases individual staff that are beyond constructive criticism. In cases where it is clear that inaccurate, abusive or aggressive statements are made, the school will take all necessary action. Initially the school will contact the parent to discuss the content and ask for it to be removed. If this does not occur then the school will contact the Social Media Site to ask for its removal. The school will seek Legal advice when necessary and this could result in prosecution.

Social media is an incredibly powerful communication tool and it has many benefits. We do recognise that the vast majority of parents do use it responsibly. Additionally, in line with all the guidance on the use of social media by young people we ask that parents / carers monitor their child's accounts. It is worth noting that the majority of social media sites are for aged 13+. In circumstances where students post inappropriate content we would encourage parents not to react to this by posting comments themselves. We are spending far too much time dealing with 'fall-outs' on social media between children, and in some cases parents. We continue to educate and counsel children on the safe and responsible use of the internet but it seems that these lessons are not being learnt.

In circumstances where you have concerns about any issue please continue to contact the school as usual. As a group of schools, we ask that you are polite and courteous to the staff who are dealing with the concern especially the first point of contact.

Finally, as you will appreciate it is not always possible for the required member of staff to be available immediately. However, we give a commitment that we will contact you as soon as possible to arrange a meeting or discussion by phone, in most cases within 24 hours.

Thank you for your continued support and please do not hesitate to contact us if there are any questions in relation to this statement.

KATE CUMBERPATCH

HEADTEACHER



TOGETHER WE GROW AND LEARN

