

Always building friendships with one another, whilst being thankful for what we have.

while trying hard each and every day to trust other people around us through humility and service.



The Magdalen Church of England / Methodist Primary School



FaceBook Policy & Advice

Review Date: September 2020

Remembering to forgive when we have been wronged and hoping to help others less fortunate than ourselves.

Determined to show compassion for those around us and develop a community that embraces justice and peace.

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Facebook Policy and Advice to Parents

Aims

The aim of this policy is set clear guidelines for the use of Facebook by staff both inside and outside of school.

Introduction

- Facebook is a popular Social Networking site: www.facebook.com
- Facebook is a US based company with over 450million registered users - 20 million of which are in the UK.
- Facebook is only for users aged over 13; however it is very easy for young people (or indeed adults) to enter an incorrect date of birth or false information to open an account.
- It is essential that if children aged under 13 are using Facebook then they need to be aware of how to protect their information, how to report abuse or inappropriate content and that their parents/carers must be aware they are online.
- With such a publicly accessible system it is open to abuse by all users. Parents are guilty of publishing critical comments about staff, children and other parents. Children can leave themselves open to abuse from other children and adults as well being abusive

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about staff and other children. Staff can also be guilty of making comments about other staff, parents and children. This can sometimes be done in the mistaken belief that the correct privacy settings are in place.

Using Facebook

Staff

- Staff are within their rights to use Facebook and we would not want to be in a position to prevent staff from using the program. However we do ask that staff adhere to the following rules:
- Under no circumstances should children be accepted as a friend. Failure to follow this will result in disciplinary action being taken. If a child asks then they should be reported for being under age on Facebook.
- Staff are asked to use extreme caution if a parents makes contact through Facebook. In the event of communicating with a parent or adult associated with a child, no comments should be made about children, staff or parents. If a staff is found in breach of this rule then disciplinary action will follow.
- Any statements or status remarks should again not contain any comments about the school, staff, children or parents.

Children

- Under no circumstance should children access Facebook in school. The school network prohibits children to access it from school but bypassing of the system or through a mobile phone will result in exclusion.
- If any reports are received of children making comments about staff or other children and a hard copy is received the child will be reported immediately to Facebook to have their account cancelled. The parents or carers of the child will also be notified and this could result in exclusion and a referral to the county legal services if the comment is about a member of staff.

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Parents

- If any hard copies are received of comments about a member of staff or other children in school then the matter will be referred to the county legal services and subsequent action could follow.
- Parents are informed through newsletters about the age limit for Facebook and also reminded about the risks for children using the internet in an un supervised way.
- We are aware that the potential for our pupils to have a face book account is high. We believe it necessary to issue advice on this, as there is a rising number of incidents occurring, which are impacting on staff, parents and pupils.

How old must my child be to have an account?

- Facebook's terms and conditions clearly state that you have to be 13 to have an account. If you are younger than this, you can only join by falsifying your date of birth, which is a direct breach of the terms and conditions. This applies to all children currently at The Magdalen Primary School.

My child does have a Facebook account which I know about.....

- Any family's use of their own computer is essentially a private matter. However, if any child's use of Facebook or other social networking sites impacts negatively on any other pupil or member of staff, then we will take very serious and immediate action.
- As a school we will work with Facebook to close down accounts of any child under the age of 13.
- If you have allowed your child to join Facebook in breach of their terms and conditions, this means you are taking full responsibility for their account and everything they are doing with it.

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We advise that:

- You look regularly at your child's account including the friends they are making and what they are writing.
- You add the click CEOP page to your child's profile. This is the Children Exploitation and Online Protection Centre and messages about Internet Safety will appear on their Facebook wall.
- If you are on Facebook, be friends with your child- whether they like it or not- enabling you to monitor activity.
- You know their log on details and password and have not changed them.
- You check that they do not have a second, alternative profile which you don't know about.
- Your computer is in a public place in the house.

I don't know if my child has a Facebook account.....

This is potentially very risky.

This means your child may have joined without your knowledge at a friend's house or on your computer- or on their mobile phone- without you knowing. They cannot join or access Facebook at school.

This means you don't know who your child is talking to and who they may be sharing information with. If you are unsure about your child's use of Social sites such as Facebook or the use of the Internet generally, please use the ThinkUKnow website- www.thinkuknow.co.uk

There are a range of activities you can look at with your child, including appropriate behaviour and staying safe online.

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