



Bullion Lane Primary School
Social Networking Policy for Staff, Governors, Friends and
Volunteers

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 and posting material, images or comments on sites such as You Tube can have a negative effect on an organisation's reputation or image. At Bullion Lane Primary School we have a firm commitment to safeguarding children in all aspects of our 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 at Bullion Lane Primary 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 at Bullion Lane Primary 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 at Bullion Lane Primary 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 or volunteer must not communicate with 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 Bullion Lane Primary School with respect to social networking.

Inappropriate use (sexting, trolling, snapchat etc)

Staff are reminded of the need to be aware of the possibility of abuse at Primary and secondary school age and that grooming children for example is something to be aware of when children use such sites at home. They are to be alert to any signs or symptoms and should pass information on to the CP leader immediately.

Parents are reminded and educated about inappropriate sites through newsletters, Safer Internet days and information sheets. Children are taught about e-safety through assemblies and lessons where these issues are discussed at the appropriate levels.

To further safeguard and protect children and staff.

Code of Conduct for Everyone at Bullion Lane Primary - Social Networking

The following are **not considered acceptable** at Bullion Lane Primary School:

- The use of the school's name, logo, or any other published material without written prior permission from the Headteacher. 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.

The posting of any images of employees, children, governors or anyone directly connected with the school whilst engaged in school activities.

In addition to the above everyone at Bullion Lane 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, or 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.

Monitoring & Evaluation Comments

Signed: _____ **(Chair Of Governors)**