



Carysfort National School

Social Media Policy

Introduction:

This Social Media Policy was a collaborative school process, involving teachers, staff, parent representatives, the Principal and the Board of Management in November 2019.

Rationale:

Carysfort National School recognises that teachers, students and parents engage with social media applications. These applications include, but are not limited to, Facebook, WhatsApp, Snapchat, Instagram, Twitter, Blogs, and other online tools through which people connect and share information.

All members of the Carysfort community are expected to uphold the values of the school in all Social Media interactions. Staff, students and parents will not act in such a way that the image of Carysfort NS is brought into disrepute nor in a way that harms members of the school community.

Therefore, it is expected that Carysfort NS's staff, students and parents will use Social Media in a respectful and responsible manner. Social Media should not be used to insult, present offensive or inappropriate content or to misrepresent Carysfort NS or any member of the school community.

Aims:

The aim of the Social Media Policy is to set standards of behaviour for the use of Social Media that are consistent with the values and expectations of Carysfort N.S. Carysfort NS aims to protect the safety and wellbeing of students, teachers and the school community. If however, there is a breach of Carysfort N.S's Social Media Policy the school will undertake disciplinary action as outlined in the school Code of Behaviour.

All reports of cyber bullying and other technology misuses will be investigated fully and may result in a notification to Gardaí where the school is required to do so.

Definitions:

Social media refers to the means of interactions among people in which they create, share, and exchange information and ideas in virtual communities and networks.

Social Media: refers to all social networking sites. These sites include, but are not limited to: Facebook, WhatsApp, Snapchat, Twitter, LinkedIn, Google+, KIK, Instagram, SMS, and YouTube and includes emails and mobile devices.

Please see appendix 1 for more detailed definitions

Rights and Responsibilities:

Staff, students and parents are expected to show respect to all members of the school community.

Staff will: Plan for the inclusion of cyber safety awareness within the curriculum with guidance from relevant education authorities.

Parents will: Be responsible for being aware of and informed about their children's online activity and be proactive in the supervision and guidance of their children taking into account this policy and in particular the school's core values.

Student Guidelines:

When using Social Media, students are expected to ensure that they:

- Read and adhere to the terms and conditions of various Social Media sites as many of them have age restrictions for their use. E.g. Facebook, Instagram and Gmail are all restricted to those 13 years of age and above. WhatsApp minimum age restriction is 16 resulting from data-protection legislation.
- Are aware of what they are posting on line and that Social Media sites and applications are public forums.
- Will not access social networking sites during the school working day.
- Respect the rights and confidentiality of others.
- Do not impersonate or falsely represent another member of the school community.
- Do not bully, intimidate abuse, harass or threaten other members of the school community.

- Do not make defamatory comments towards other members of the school community.
- Do not use offensive or threatening language or resort to personal abuse towards each other or members of the school community.
- Do not harm the reputation of Carysfort NS or members of the school community.
- Do not upload video, audio or photographs of any member of the Carysfort NS community (student, parents or staff).
- Do not upload any video or photographs of any student where they can be identified as a Carysfort NS student by their uniform or any other means.

PARENT GUIDELINES:

Classroom blogs and other Social Media tools open up communication between students, parents and teachers. This kind of communication and collaboration can have a beneficial effect on learning at Carysfort NS. The school encourages parents to participate in such activities when appropriate but requests that parents act responsibly and respectfully at all times, understanding that their conduct not only reflects on the school community, but will be a model for our students as well.

Parents should:

- Be aware that many Social Media sites have age restrictions that have implications for their primary aged children. Parents need to monitor their children's online social media activity and read the terms and conditions of various Social Media sites and applications their children are interested in using. Parents need to be aware that many of them have age restrictions for their use. Eg Facebook, Instagram and Gmail are all restricted to those 13 years of age and above. WhatsApp age restriction is 16 years of age.
- Be aware that they are in breach of terms and conditions if they set up a personal account for their children to use if they knowingly understand that age restrictions apply.
- Before uploading photos, audio or video, parents need to seek appropriate permission from any individual involved. This particularly applies in relation to the privacy of the staff, pupils and parents of Carysfort N.S.
- Be aware that online postings and conversations are not private. Do not share confidential information, internal school discussions, or specific information about students, staff or other parents.
- Be conscious of the fact that users of Social Media sites should never identify any child by name or associate them with a particular school.
- Parents should not participate in spreading false or unsubstantiated rumours or false information in regards to the Carysfort NS community and its members.
- Parents assisting with classroom/school activities should not make use of social media sites while involved in such activities.

STAFF AND TEACHER GUIDELINES:

Social Media in relation to staff and teacher relates to blogs, wikis, podcasts, digital images and video, instant messaging and mobile devices.

- Social networking sites such as Facebook, WhatsApp or Instagram must not be used by staff as a platform for learning activities with students.
- Staff should not accept students as 'friends' on their own social network sites or interact with students on social networking sites.
- Staff and student online interaction must occur only in an educational context.
- Staff members are advised NOT to accept ex-students or parents of current students as friends on personal Social Media sites.
- Staff members must not discuss students or colleagues or publicly criticise school policies or personnel on social networking sites.
- While staff members have permission to post photographs of students to the school website they do not have permission to post details that would identify any child.
- Staff members are personally responsible for content they publish online. Staff members need to be mindful that what they publish will be public for a long time.
- The lines between public and private, personal and professional are blurred in the online world. If staff members identify themselves online as affiliated with Carysfort NS then they need to be aware that they are by definition representing the entire school community. Staff members should ensure that content associated with them is consistent with their work at the school and the school's values and ethos.
- Staff members should not participate in spreading false or unsubstantiated rumours or false information in regards to the Carysfort NS community.
- When contributing online, staff should not post confidential student information.
- Staff should check their profile's security and privacy settings on social networking sites. At a minimum, staff should have all privacy settings set to 'only friends'.

MANAGING CHANGE AND ISSUES ARISING:

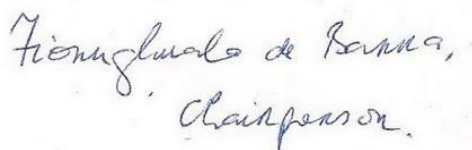
- We acknowledge that technology changes rapidly. If any member of the Carysfort NS community has a concern or question pertaining to Social Media or Social Networking sites, this should be directed to the Principal.
- Parents, students or staff who have a complaint or issue arising from Social Media should contact the principal.

Review and Implementation:

The Social Media Policy is available on the school's website: carysfortns.ie

The Social Media Policy was formally approved by the Board of Management at its meeting on 14/11/2019

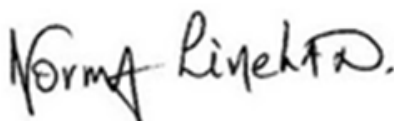
Chairperson:



Fiannghuala de Barra,
Chairperson.

Date: 14th November 2019

Principal:



Norma Linehan.

Date: 14th November 2019

This policy will be reviewed in November 2021.

APPENDIX 1: DEFINITIONS

-*Social Media Social networking sites*: are websites that allow you to create a personal profile about yourself and then chat and share information with others such as family and friends.

-*Video, audio and photo sharing websites*: are sites that allow you to upload and share videos, sounds and photos which can be viewed/heard by web users the world over eg, Flickr, YouTube, iTunes U, Vimeo, SoundCloud

-*Blog*: A blog (short for web log) is a kind of online diary, where you regularly post about your life, your passions, business, news or other interests. It is a way of having your own space in the virtual world eg, WordPress, Blogger

-*Microblogging apps*: are websites that post micro-blog like posts to announce what you are currently doing eg, Twitter, Tumblr

-*Forums or message boards*: are online discussion sites where people can hold conversations in the form of posted messages