

An agreement for the safe and appropriate use of Social Media 2023 – 24

This agreement relates to the use of social media and networking applications by all members of the Lowry Academy School Community; this includes its students, employees, Parents/Carers and Governors.

- At Lowry Academy we believe that a common-sense approach should be taken to social networking, however, we also ask that all members of our school community respect underlying safeguarding principles and basic manners in how we communicate with people, at all times.
- As a result, we ask all families to appreciate the influence, power and vulnerability of social networking and think through their online actions even more carefully in order to avoid any areas of potential conflict.

In particular:

- Parents/Carers should not contact their children by phone or text during the school day. If there is a need to make contact, Parents/Carers must contact the School Office and a message will be passed on to the Year Lead.
- The vast majority of people who use social networking show respect in their communication with others and this is something that we must encourage in order to show our students that we are positive 'digital role models'.
- We hold all our dedicated staff in high regard, as professionals who make every effort to deliver an enjoyable and enriched learning experience, it is disheartening if negative comments are made on social media. Personal comments on social media sites do not afford the school an opportunity to respond professionally and appropriately.
- We offer a number of ways that Parents/Carers can contact the school if they have any concerns or issues they wish to discuss. We advise Parents/Carers to make an appointment to discuss any concerns with the appropriate staff rather than expressing their feelings through social networking sites. The school does not use social media to resolve school matters, preferring to direct Parents/Carers to the correct channels within school which promote face to face discussion. We ask all families to respect this.
- Online comment may be regarded as defamatory if it is directly about, or refers to, an individual who may easily be identified. Should a situation arise whereby any such comment is made in relation to the school or one of its employees, legal advice will be sought with a view to appropriate action being taken. We hope all families will support the spirit of this agreement by ensuring such a situation does not arise.

A full copy of the school's Social Media Policy is available either via the school website or on request from the school
