

THE MOSLEY ACADEMY

Social Media Code of Conduct for Parents

1. ONLINE SAFETY AND SOCIAL MEDIA CONDUCT

- The school expects parents to behave in a civilised nature online and will not tolerate any of the following online behaviour:
 - Posting defamatory statuses about parents, pupils, the school or its employees
 - Complaining about the school's values and methods on social media
 - Posting statuses containing confidential information, e.g. regarding a complaint outcome
 - Contacting school employees through social media, including requesting to 'follow' them or sending them private messages
 - Creating or joining private groups or chats that victimise or harass a member of staff or the school in general
- If parents wish to raise a complaint, the JTMA has a **Complaints Policy** in place.
- Breaches of this code of conduct will be taken seriously by the school and, in the event of illegal, defamatory, or discriminatory content, breaches could lead to prosecution.
- Parents will not attempt to 'friend' or 'follow' any member of staff on social media.
- Parents are instructed not to post anonymously or under an alias to evade the guidance given in this code of conduct.
- The school retains the right to request any damaging material is removed from social media websites.
- Parents' social media usage will be in accordance with the Trust's policy.

2. ONLINE MESSAGING

- The school expects parents to use messaging apps, such as WhatsApp, for purposes beneficial to themselves and the school, and will not accept any of the following behaviour:
 - Sending abusive messages to fellow parents
 - Sending abusive messages about members of staff, parents or the school
 - Sending abusive messages to members of staff
 - Sending frequent messages to members of staff

- The school appreciates the simplicity and ease of instant messaging; keeping in contact outside of school can benefit the school community by keeping it closer.
- The school does not, however, condone parents sending frequent and unimportant messages to staff. Parents should understand that staff should never be contacted outside of working hours.
- If parents wish to talk to staff, parents should arrange a meeting with the teacher by speaking to the **school office**.
- Should any problems arise from contact over messaging apps, the school will act quickly by contacting parents directly, to stop any issues continuing.
- The school can request a meeting with parents if any misconduct, such as sending abusive messages or posting defamatory statuses, occurs online.
- The school's complaints procedure will be followed as normal if any members of the parent teacher association or governing board cause any issues through their conduct whilst using online messaging.
- The **headteacher** can, with the permission of the parent raising the issue, view messages sent between members of the parental body, or alternatively the parent disclosing the conversation/information to deal with problems quickly and effectively.
- The **headteacher** can request that 'group chats' are closed down should any problems continue between parents or parental bodies.

3. **MONITORING AND REVIEW**

- This procedure will be reviewed by the **headteacher** on an annual basis.
- All parents will be required to read this code of conduct and sign the Parental Declaration Form should any changes be made.

Social Media Code of Conduct – Parent Declaration

I _____ (name), parent of _____ (name of child), declare that I have received, read and understood the terms and conditions of this code of conduct.

I understand my obligations under this code of conduct and agree to comply fully with them. I will ensure that my conduct does not breach this code of conduct in any way, including:

- Sending abusive messages to parents or teachers.
- Sending abusive messages about parents and teachers.
- Posting defamatory 'statuses' about other parents, pupils, teachers or the school.
- Using social media to complain or post any grievances about the school's values and methods.
- Posting statuses containing confidential information, e.g. regarding a complaint outcome.
- Contacting school employees through social media, including requesting to 'follow' them or sending them private messages.
- Creating or joining private groups or chats that victimise or harass a member of staff or the school in general.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

March 2023