St Mary's School
Waverley
Founded 1888

SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY - PUPILS

The St Mary's Information and Communication Technology Usage Policy is relevant and foundational to this Social Media Policy and continues to apply.

This policy applies to all pupils using St Mary's School's social media accounts and to all St Mary's School pupils using personal social media accounts, whether for school related or personal purposes.

Social media platforms are public forums and there may be consequences including civil and/or criminal liability when posting personal views. Generally, users should be thoughtful and polite at all times and should not communicate information or content that may bring the school into disrepute.

The lines between public and private and personal are blurred in the online world. By virtue of being a pupil at St Mary's, you are connected to fellow pupils, parents, the school and wider community. The good name and reputation of St Mary's is a precious asset of the school which you are obliged to promote and respect. You should therefore ensure that content associated with you is consistent with your attendance at the school and with the school's values and ethos.

Users must not post, like messages or comment on material that could damage St Mary's School's image or reputation. For example, users must not:

- Create or transmit material that might be defamatory or incur liability for the school
- Post messages, status updates or links to material or content that is inappropriate (this includes information or content that is illegal, criminal activities or terrorism, or pornography, or which contains information or content that could reasonably offend on the basis of race, gender, sex, age, religious or political beliefs, disability, sexual orientation)
- Send or post derogatory, offensive or harassing material
- Broadcast views which are contrary to, or which do not promote, the school's ethos and values
- Interact with other schools or make comments about them, their pupils or members of staff in ways that may be interpreted as being offensive, disrespectful or rude
- Interact with examining bodies or make comments about them or their members of staff, in ways that may undermine the legitimacy of the examination process or which may be interpreted as being offensive, disrespectful or rude
- Post, upload, forward or link to spam, junk email or chain emails and messages

Users must respect and operate within copyright laws.

We encourage families to familiarise themselves with the age restrictions of various social media platforms.

November 2024