



Chelmer Primary Cluster

Inappropriate use of Social Network Site

In agreement with our local cluster of schools: Boreham, Ford End, Little Waltham, Great Waltham, Newland Spring, Great Leighs, St Pius X, Broomfield and Chelmer Valley High, we recognise that social media websites are being used increasingly to fuel campaigns and complaints against schools, Headteachers, school staff, and in some cases other parents/pupils. *The governing body of Little Waltham CEVA Primary School* considers the use of social media websites being used in this way as unacceptable and not in the best interests of our children/pupils or the whole school community. Any concerns you may have must be made through the appropriate channels by speaking to the class teacher, the Headteacher or the Chair of Governors, so they can be dealt with fairly, appropriately and effectively for all concerned. *A copy of our Complaints procedure can be found on our school website or by asking for a paper version at the main school office.*

In the event that any pupil or parent/carer of a child/ren being educated in our school is found to be posting libellous or defamatory comments on Facebook or other social network sites, they will be reported to the appropriate 'report abuse' section of the network site. All social network sites have clear rules about the content which can be posted on the site and they provide robust mechanisms to report contact or activity which breaches this. The school will also expect that any parent/carer or pupil removes such comments immediately.

In serious cases the school will also consider its legal options to deal with any such misuse of social networking and other sites. Additionally, and perhaps more importantly is the issue of cyber bullying and the use by one child or a parent to publicly humiliate another by inappropriate social network entry. We will take and deal with this as a serious incident of school bullying. *We have a zero tolerance to cyber bullying.* Thankfully such incidents are extremely rare.

We would expect that parents would make all persons responsible for collecting children aware of this policy.

Facebook is targeted at older teenagers and adults. They have a no under 13 registration policy and recommend parental guidance for 13 to 16 year olds.

The following are extracts from Facebook privacy policy:

"If you are under age 13, please do not attempt to register for Facebook or provide any personal information about yourself to us. If we learn that we have collected personal information from a child under age 13, we will delete that information as quickly as possible. If you believe that we might have any information from a child under age 13, please contact us"

"We strongly recommend that minors 13 years of age or older ask their parents for permission before sending any information about themselves to anyone over the Internet and we encourage parents to teach their children about safe internet use practices."

Date Approved: Autumn 2019

To Be Reviewed: Autumn 2020