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Headteacher: Mr L Bell

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## The use of social media

Dear parents / carers,

Should parents have a concern about a school related issue they must always deal with it through the proper procedures and channels of communication; contacting the school directly to discuss any matters in more detail with the intent on finding a resolution. It is always our aim to deal with matters fairly, appropriately and effectively, in the interests of the children.

We have been made aware of social media being used by some parents and community members in a way that is viewed as inappropriate towards our school, staff, and more worryingly, about children that attend our school. Comments and conversations about children, parents and staff, made on social media may be considered as upsetting, hurtful and even threatening. As a school community, we all have a responsibility to safeguard our children; protecting them from any form of abuse including verbal and emotional abuse.

Specific children that attend this school have been named in social media posts and on line conversations about school matters. This is simply unacceptable and clear breach of our Code of Conduct policy:

**In order to support a peaceful and safe school environment the school will not tolerate parents, carers or visitors exhibiting the following:**

*“Defamatory, offensive or derogatory comments regarding the school or any of the pupils/parent/staff, at the school on Facebook or other social sites” – Appendix 1 of Code of Conduct*

**Appendix 1 of the Code of Conduct** makes the schools position perfectly clear; *Libellous or Defamatory posts- In the event that it is found that a pupil or parent/carer/child attending Saltersgate 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 site. All social media sites have clear rules about the content which can be posted and they have robust mechanisms to report content or activity which breaches this.*

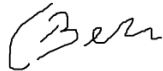
Should any of the above be brought to our attention, the school and its Governing Body may feel it is necessary to take appropriate action in order to protect our children and their families. Please be assured that any action which may be taken will be done in order to safeguard every child that attends this school.

I would urge every parent/carer to refer to our Code of Conduct on the school website for more details about the misuse of social media and its implications.

Social media, when used correctly, can be a wonderful form of communication that relay messages very quickly, celebrate achievements and generally add to the open culture of communication that we are trying to create here at Saltergate Infant School. However, misuse of such social media can also put at risk young children, staff and the community and has no place here at our school.

I hope the minority, and I realise it is a minority, of people using social media inappropriately cease to do so in future and abide by the school's Code of Conduct.

Yours sincerely,



Mr L Bell  
(Headteacher at Scawsby Saltergate Infants School)

