

The Use of Social Media at Downlands

<p>Welcome Remarks:</p> <p>In attendance Mr R Davies (Deputy Headteacher), Mr M Ashdown (Assistant Headteacher)</p>	<p>Mr Davies</p>
<p>Update on issues raised at last meeting</p> <p>We have introduced the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In the event of new trips being added, the school emails parents of children involved to give parents maximum notice. 2. Providing low/no-cost options. The Year 10 Science Immersion Day was free. The Flexiday in January will be largely cost free also Year 7 students will be asked for a small contribution towards the cost of a performance poet. The Enrichment Days in July will have some no-cost/low cost options. 3. “Savings Pot” online – there is now a facility for all parents who hold accounts to pre-pay as and when they wish and then for monies to be reallocated to trips upon request. 	<p>Mr Davies</p>
<p>The Use of Social Media at Downlands</p> <p>Definitions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Media – everything is published and available to everyone • Social Network Site – private network with invited individuals <p>There are hundreds of sites online with Facebook (with monthly 900,000,000 users worldwide) being the largest.</p> <p>Parents should try to avoid “techno panic” mind set and embrace Social Media and Social Networking with caution.</p> <p>Several questions asked of the Forums participants:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Social media makes children more likely to bully others? No - other issues cause bullying. Most people join social media to make friends. 2. Teaching kids to recognise predatory behaviour is more effective than telling NOT to talk to strangers? Yes – need to teach children what kind of questions are OK. “What are you wearing? Are you a boy or a girl?” are not OK. 3. Children behave worse online? No – the majority behave well online. Is it dangerous to post pictures – it is not risk free but follow guidelines put up by social media sites. Use privacy settings correctly to restrict viewing and viewing time. 4. It is dangerous to post pictures on line? No but don't ID people. Limit your audience. Warn children that once it is out there it is almost impossible to get rid of it. 	<p>Mr Ashdown</p>

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5. Parent Controls are the best way to monitor children’s online activities? No – don’t be lulled into a false sense of security. Configure your router. Set limits on time on line. Teach children to behave in a respectful and responsible way on line.

Useful sites and guidance:

“Get Safe Online” <https://www.getsafeonline.org/>

Ceop <http://ceop.police.uk/> - “Thinkuknow” particularly useful

If you have concerns about someone your child has met online report it to Ceop (part of the National Crime Agency).

Risks of being online:

Strangers/ Cyber bullying/ Scamming/ Identity Theft – talk to your children about the importance of strong passwords. Current recommendation is to string three random words together that have a meaning e.g. if your front door is red, your password could be “bigreddoor”.

Remind children that Twitter is not anonymous – tweets can be traced and the police do prosecute. Rules of face to face encounters are the same for online.

Social Media at Downlands

Social media is blocked but the children are not allowed access to social media in the lower school.

However, some departments are using Twitter e.g. the Classics Department, PE Department. Twitter is a useful tool for keeping parents up to date on trips so that you can see what the children have been up to whilst away. The Classics Department use Twitter as a way of reminding students about upcoming exams and revision sites.

The Art Department use Pinterest to support their lessons.

The PowerPoint for this discussion is on the School Website.

Next meeting: 28 January 2015 – Agenda to be confirmed