

22nd March 2018



Dear Parent/Carer,

At St Michael's Church of England High School, we aim to promote a positive working partnership with parents at all times; we are highly committed to working constructively and collaboratively with parents in order that the very best outcomes for our children are realised. From time to time, however, issues can arise where the views of some parents and the school view are apparently at odds with one another. When such issues arise, we strive to reach conciliation and agreement with parents where at all possible by engaging in open, honest and positive dialogue. We feel this is best achieved through meeting and talking with parents face to face.

In the digital age in which we live, the use of social media by parents to post negative and defamatory statements about schools and school staff has become a national issue. The vast majority of schools, therefore, produce guidance on the misuse of social media. A copy of our 'Parental use of Social Networking Sites and Internet Use' policy is attached to this letter.

Social media websites are being used increasingly to fuel campaigns and complaints against schools, headteachers, school staff and, in some cases, other parents or pupils. We at St Michael's Church of England High School consider the use of social media websites being used in this way as unacceptable and not in the best interest of the children or the whole school community. Any concerns you may have must be made through the appropriate channels by speaking to the class teacher, head of year, headteacher or chair of governors, so they can be dealt with fairly, appropriately and effectively for all concerned.

In the event that any pupil or parent/carer of a child/children being education at St Michael's Church of England High School is found to be posting libellous or defamatory comments on Facebook or other social network sites, they will be 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. In serious cases, the school will also consider its legal options to deal with any such misuse of social networking and other sites. The school will also expect that any parent/carer or pupil removes such comments immediately.

As a school, we are firmly committed to teaching our children to use the internet safely and responsibly; for their own personal protection, this is of paramount importance. We, therefore, expect that parents will do likewise and will model appropriate use of the internet at home.

We look forward to your cooperation in this respect. If you would like to discuss the issue further please contact the school to speak to Ms Prescott or Mrs Picariello to make an appointment at a mutually convenient time to see me.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'J Gray'.

Mrs J Gray
Headteacher

Headteacher: **Mrs J Gray, MSc, NPQH**

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