



THE  
**WALDESLADE  
& GREENACRE**  
SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP

# Acceptable Social Media Usage Policy for Students

**Key Document Details:**

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## Statement of Equality

We have carefully considered and analysed the impact of this policy on equality and the possible implications for students with protected characteristics, as part of our commitment to meet the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) requirement to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations.

This policy reflects current Department for Education guidance and will be reviewed and updated in line with any further national direction or statutory requirements regarding the use of mobile phones and electronic devices in schools.

## Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to outline guidelines for acceptable social media usage by students within The Beyond Schools Trust. The policy aims to promote responsible and ethical behaviour online, ensure a safe and positive digital environment and protect the well-being of students.

## Responsible Use

- Students must use social media responsibly, adhering to all school and Trust policies and applicable laws.
- Respect for others' privacy, intellectual property, and personal information is essential.
- Students should exercise good judgment and critical thinking when posting or sharing content online.

## Mobile Phones and Electronic Devices

- Mobile phones and electronic devices brought onto the school site must not be visible, accessible, or used during the school day, including social times, unless explicit permission has been granted by a member of staff.
- Devices must be switched off and stored securely in bags at all times.
- This includes smart watches, fitness trackers and any internet-enabled or communication-capable devices.
- Meta glasses or any other AI glasses are prohibited.



## Cyberbullying and Harassment

- Cyberbullying, harassment, or any form of online intimidation is strictly prohibited.
- Students must not engage in activities that could harm, intimidate, or embarrass others.
- Reporting incidents of cyberbullying or harassment is encouraged and will be treated seriously.

## Respectful Communication

- Students should engage in respectful and constructive discussions online.
- Discriminatory, offensive, or inflammatory language or behaviour is unacceptable.
- Personal attacks, derogatory comments, or spreading rumours are strictly prohibited.

## Privacy and Security

- Students should safeguard their personal information and respect the privacy of others.
- Sharing personal details, such as contact information or passwords, is not allowed.
- Students should be cautious about accepting friend requests or connections from unknown individuals.

## Intellectual Property

- Students must respect copyright laws and intellectual property rights.
- Plagiarism, unauthorised use of copyrighted materials, or claiming others' work as one's own is not allowed.
- Proper citation and acknowledgment of sources must be followed when using external content.

## School and Trust Reputation

- Students should be mindful of their online behaviour and understand that it reflects on The Beyond Schools Trust and all Trust schools.
- Any content or activities that may damage the reputation of The Beyond Schools Trust and/or Trust schools is prohibited.
- Students must refrain from posting or sharing inappropriate or offensive content related to The Beyond Schools Trust or its members.



## Consequences for Policy Violations

- Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary actions, including warnings, temporary suspension of social media privileges, or other appropriate consequences.
- Medical exceptions are granted only where supported by appropriate medical evidence. These arrangements are individual, time-limited, and closely monitored by the school. No exceptions are provided for convenience or personal preference. Any such exceptions will be agreed in accordance with SENCO or First Aid only.

## Education and Support

- The Beyond Schools Trust will provide education and resources to promote responsible social media usage.
- Students will be encouraged to seek help or report any concerns regarding social media issues.

This policy will be reviewed annually, or sooner in response to changes in national guidance or statutory requirements.



# Equality Impact Assessment

Who is the policy or process intended for?	Students	Employees	Govs/ Trustees	Volunteers	Visitors
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
Status of the policy or process:	New policy or process			Existing policy or process	
	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Analysis</b>					
Protected Characteristic	Impact analysis			Explanation of impact analysis	
	Positive	Neutral	Negative		
Age:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Disability:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Sex:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Gender reassignment:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Race:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Religion or belief:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Sexual orientation:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Marriage or civil partnership:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Pregnancy and maternity:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Pupil groups (PP/SEN/CLA):	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
<b>Evaluation and decision making</b>					
Summary of action taken:					
Final decision:					

