



Advice for parents using social media

Unfortunately, the misuse of and over reliance on social media platforms has generated some negativity in the media and there is undoubtedly a growing fashion for blaming social media for everything that ails society. However, it is important to remember that Social Media can affect and benefit our lives for the better when it is used in a positive way:

Connectivity: It is an effortless way to connect with the other people. We are just a single click away from an incredible number of people. Regardless of differences, social networks are helpful in reviving and preserving relationships with other people.

Sharing Knowledge: It has become very easy to get knowledge from renowned experts and professionals through social media. You can easily follow anyone to boost your knowledge. Regardless of your educational background, you can learn various skills without paying for them.

Supporting Noble Causes: Create awareness and help people to discover various innovations that help them enhance their own lives. Every individual can benefit from the awareness factor of social media.

Building Communities: People with similar interests can form groups to discuss and spread information. Sports lovers for example can follow sports communities, organise events and keep up to date with their hobby.

Mental Health: It can help with our mental health too, helping relieve social isolation and open new communication pathways that offers much-needed support.

When used in a positive way, social media does have so many benefits so it is vital that we govern its use and ensure it serves and supports us in a safe and positive way. If you are part of a social media group connected to or discussing aspects of Walkley Primary School, you can help by ensuring the following:

Check members are parents before accepting them into your group

- For safeguarding reasons, it's important to check that all members are parents of a child in the class before allowing them into the group
- If you're unsure if someone is a parent of a child in the class, check with the Walkley Primary School pastoral team.

Enable post approval

- Facebook allows admin users to 'approve' posts by all members before they are posted onto the group
- If you decide not to approve a post, or to remove one, Facebook sends the member a message telling them which rule was broken
- For platforms that don't allow post approval (WhatsApp or an email chain), you'll need to read all comments carefully to see if they break any rules and then ask the parent to remove their comment if it does

Create Group rules

All users should stick to the following rules for their groups:

1. Be respectful to staff, children and other parents at all times
2. Don't use the group to complain about a member of staff or the school. Raise complaints through the school's official channels so they can be dealt with in the appropriate way
3. Don't use the group to call attention to, or to try to solve, specific behaviour incidents. Discuss these with the class teacher or a member of the pastoral team so they can respond in line with the school's behaviour policy

4. Only share or post pictures of your own child. Get permission from another child's parents before posting or sharing photos of them

You can remove parents from Facebook, WhatsApp or email groups if they violate the group's rules.

When to report something to the school

Speak to your class teacher, or a member of the safeguarding team, if:

- Someone posts something in your group that is aggressive or abusive
- Someone in your group has broken a rule, or consistently breaks the rules, and hasn't responded to your requests or warnings about their behaviour
- Someone in your group names other children (not their own) in a post
- Someone says something that suggests that a child may be at risk of harm
- Someone makes an allegation about inappropriate behaviour of a pupil, parent or member of school staff

On this information, the Walkley Primary School Safeguarding Team will decide what further action should be taken in line with the following policies:

[WPS Internet Safety Policy](#)

[Anti-Bullying Policy](#)

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter,

Walkley Primary School Safeguarding Team