

School Policies

Behaviour & Relationships Policy

3.7: Use of Social Media

Pupils are expected to engage with the school's social media sites with respect and responsibility.

Pupils should not engage in activities involving social media which might bring Ulidia Integrated College into disrepute.

Personal information about other pupils, Ulidia Integrated College and the wider community should remain private and should not be discussed on any social media platform.

Social media and the internet should be used responsibly and not used in any way to attack, insult, abuse or defame pupils, their family members, teachers, other professionals, other organisations or Ulidia Integrated College.

Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy

The use of camera phones to send offensive pictures to other pupils is not permitted and will be dealt with under the Discipline Code.

Any incident of improper use of photographs should be reported to the Designated Teacher (Miss Connolly) immediately.

Anti-Bullying Policy

At Ulidia Integrated College we consider the following when dealing with instances of bullying:

- ⇒ The intention behind the words and actions
- ⇒ Patterns of behaviour
- ⇒ The balance of power between the target and the aggressor.

Cyber Bullying

This may include sending abusive, threatening or hurtful texts, emails or messages and the misuse of social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter or Snapchat. This includes posting such messages both publicly and privately, using images and/or photographs to embarrass or humiliate and online behaviour designed to intimidate.

Cyber bullying is one of the most common forms of bullying and often takes place outside school hours. However, very often incidents that occur outside school can have an impact on pupils in school. Targets of cyber bullying are often fearful of the aggressor/s inside school and this can have a detrimental effect on both their emotional well-being and their academic progress.

Social Media Guidance for Parents/Guardians



What is Social Media?

Social media is simply a set of online tools used to communicate and engage with other people.

This includes:

- ⇒ Having a personal profile page on a site such as Facebook, Instagram etc
- ⇒ Taking part in online surveys, votes or polls
- ⇒ Taking part in conversations on public and private message boards

Are you aware of?

- BBM
- Chatroulette
- Facebook
- Instagram
- Keek
- Kik
- Omegle
- Pinterest
- Snapchat
- Tinder
- Tumblr
- Twitter
- Vine
- Whatsapp
- YikYak

Why is knowing about social media important?

The reality is that the vast majority of young people will use some sort of social media accounts at some stage. An online platform is where they communicate, socialise and ,in some cases, live.

As adults, we can no longer sit by and claim that it is just some new fangled idea and leave them to it. To do this leaves our young people vulnerable.

We need to teach young people how to use these platforms responsibly and respectfully as well as educating them in the dangers they may face.



WHAT CAN YOU DO TO SUPPORT YOUR CHILD?



You can and you should encourage your child to:

- Read the terms and conditions of the account
- Explore privacy and security settings
- Block any unwanted interactions from others
- Report any material that is bullying, offensive or threatening



Most mobile devices are now 'smart' which means they can access the internet through a mobile data connection or wifi. This means that your child can access the internet pretty much any time, day or night.

Before providing your child with a new device, check and understand what you are buying. Make sure there are clear boundaries and expectations for its use. Stick to what you agree.



Agree with your child that you will check their social media accounts regularly. Perhaps this can be part of the boundaries you set before you buy the device or undertake to pay the bill.

The older and more responsible your child gets, the more independence and privacy you should give. But...this is based on trust that your child can and will do the right thing.

Check who your child is friends with. Ask questions about how well they know them and if they have ever met them in the 'real' world.