Acceptable Social Media Usage Policy for Pupils

Key Document Details:			
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Contents

Statement of Equality

We have carefully considered and analysed the impact of this policy on equality and the possible implications for pupils 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.

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

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

Cyberbullying and Harassment

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

Respectful Communication

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

Privacy and Security

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

Intellectual Property

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

School and Trust Reputation

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

Consequences for Policy Violations

1. Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary actions, including warnings, temporary suspension of social media privileges, or other appropriate consequences.
2. Severe or repeated violations may lead to further disciplinary measures as deemed necessary.

Education and Support

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

Equality Impact Assessment

Who is the policy or process intended for?	Pupils	Employees	Govs/ Trustees	Volunteers	Visitors
	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑

Status of the policy or process:	New policy or process		Existing policy or process	
	☐		☑	

Analysis				

Protected Characteristic	Impact analysis			Explanation of impact analysis
	Positive	Neutral	Negative	
Age:	☐	☑	☐	
Disability:	☐	☑	☐	
Sex:	☐	☑	☐	
Gender reassignment:	☐	☑	☐	
Race:	☐	☑	☐	
Religion or belief:	☐	☑	☐	
Sexual orientation:	☐	☑	☐	
Marriage or civil partnership:	☐	☑	☐	
Pregnancy and maternity:	☐	☑	☐	
Pupil groups (PP/SEN/CLA):	☐	☑	☐	

Evaluation and decision making	
Summary of action taken:	
Final decision:	