



Friday 13th October 2017

GOSFORTH TRUST SCHOOLS AND SOCIAL NETWORKING

Dear Parents/Carers,

All the schools within the Gosforth School's Trust value the relationship that there is between home and school. We take any parental concerns very seriously and are pleased that the vast majority are resolved by class teachers. However, as Headteachers serving in local schools we felt it appropriate to write to you regarding the use of Social Media sites such as Facebook or Twitter as it has come to our attention that in some of our schools these have become a forum for some members of our school community to openly comment on schools' issues, which is not appropriate.

We would therefore like to remind you that using Facebook, Twitter and other social networking sites is not the correct forum if you have issues about the schools, staff, other parents or pupils as any negative remarks on these sites can be seen as defamation of character, harassment or slander. This means that you could be prosecuted by the police. If at any time you have an issue, your first port of call should always be the class teacher. If it remains unresolved, then contact the Headteacher and if you are still dissatisfied, then you should put your complaint in writing to the Chair of Governors. This is in accordance with the schools' complaints policies.

May we also take this opportunity to remind you that it is not acceptable to upload photographs or video clips of your child taken at school which include other children, onto social networking sites without the permission of the parents.

We hope that you understand and appreciate our position on such matters and that you will support us by removing any comments of this kind and following the guidance we have set out in the future. We are looking to maintain the strong relationship that we have with parents and wish to work with you on this issue.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Ashcroft
Regent Farm First School

Mr Ward
Grange First School

Mrs Elliott
South Gosforth First School

Mrs Henry
Archbishop Runcie First School

Ms McKenna
Broadway East First School

Mrs Farah
Dinnington First School

Mrs McKay
Brunton First School

Mr Stout
Gosforth East Middle School

Ms Webb
Gosforth Central Middle School

Mrs Bayes
Archibald First School

Mrs Sara
Gosforth Park First School

Mr Snaith
Chair of Gosforth Schools' Trust