



# SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

**Last review:** June 2025

**Next review:** June 2026

**Reviewed by:** Rebecca Warhurst, Headteacher  
John Bolton, Governance Chair

## **Social Media Policy**

### **1.0 Aim of this Policy**

- 1.1 Silver Birch School is committed to using social media to improve how it interacts with parents, carers, other organisations and other key partners such as Social Care .
- 1.2 The school is also committed to making the best use of all available technology and innovation to improve the way it conducts business and communicates with parents and carers, including an increasing use of social media by school and staff.
- 1.3 By its very nature, social media is fast and responsive, which makes it an excellent communication tool; however, because of this when a mistake is made it can rapidly get out of control.
- 1.4 This policy is aimed at protecting staff and the reputation of the school, by ensuring that users are clear about, and understand, the appropriate use of social media in the workplace.
- 1.5 This policy is not intended to restrict genuine and work-related use of what is an important method of communication and engagement. It is aimed at helping to get the most out of the social media tools available, whilst also maintaining a safe and professional environment for both the school and its employees.

### **2.0 Scope**

- 2.1 This policy applies to all employees of the school and their personal social media channels.

### **3.0 Employees' responsibilities when using social media**

- 3.1 For the purpose of this policy social media refers to any on-line web-based tool which allows users to communicate with one another, by sharing information, opinions, knowledge and interests online.
- 3.2 Examples of social media include, but are not limited to, use of apps, blogs, instant messaging, Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, YouTube, Instagram, Google+, Skype and Cloud Storage Solution.
- 3.3 As employees of the school, when using social media you need to take responsibility for the information that you are putting on line. Even in cases where blogs or web pages have private settings, any information that is posted, uploaded or shared can become public very quickly. It is therefore essential that employees stay within legal limits when using social media, both personally and professionally.

#### **4.0 Using Social Media for work purposes**

- 4.1 Employees must have express consent from their manager to use the school's social media accounts as part of their work/job role and should not upload any materials to School accounts without prior consent. This applies both when working from home or from work, using either School IT equipment or personal devices.
- 4.2 Employees should be aware that they should not post, upload or share any information online that is libellous, defamatory, may damage the school's reputation or be subject to copyright when using the school's social media accounts. If you are unsure about what this includes, please speak to your manager
- 4.3 Employees should keep personal or private information relating to work, customers, colleagues and business partners confidential at all times. If you are unsure about what this includes, please speak to your manager.

#### **5.0 Personal use of Social Media**

- 5.1 Employees must ensure that any personal online activity does not interfere with their job, their colleagues, and their responsibilities and duties as a school employee.
- 5.2 Employees must be aware that the information that they upload, share or post on social media is public and should not bring the school or its employees into disrepute.
- 5.3 Employees are permitted to access social media from a School PC at work providing they comply with the Acceptable use of IT policy. This policy states that "short" and "occasional" use of School IT systems for personal use is allowed. Short means **"in the users own time and for a few minutes"** and occasional means **once or twice per day**.
- 5.4 Employees should only access social media for personal use from personal devices at work during their own time e.g. during breaks and lunch time. Managers will monitor the use of personal devices at work in the same way that they would any other activity e.g. personal phone calls, breaks etc. and deal with any excessive use individually.

#### **6.0 Ensuring you stay within the Social Media policy**

- 6.1 It is important that your activities and actions are in line with this policy. Breaches of this policy could be seen as bringing the school into disrepute and/or considered misuse of School resources and equipment.
- 6.2 Any potential breaches of this policy will need to be investigated, and this may include formal investigation in accordance with the School's Disciplinary policy and procedure.

6.3 All employees need to be aware that as detailed in section 4 of this policy, if your actions on social media are also considered to be unlawful, you may also be subject to legal and criminal proceedings.

**7. Links to other Policies/Documents**

- **Acceptable use of IT**
- **Disciplinary policy and procedure**

**8. Further Guidance**

If Managers require further advice regarding the application of policy and guidance, please contact HR.

**9. Policy Review**

This policy will be reviewed in accordance with any changes to statutory legislation and/or guidance and in consultation with the recognised trade unions.