**Dales Park School Social Media Policy**

Social Media is described as web-based and mobile technologies that allow users to communicate and interact with each other. Dales Park School recognises that Social Media has become a part of everyday life for many of our pupils and can be used positively. While a large amount of activity on Social Media is entirely harmless, concerns can arise where postings made by pupils can include malicious content directed towards other pupils. The behaviour expected in an electronic world is no different from that expected in other forms of communication.

Pupils should not post comments that are offensive towards others. Such comments can generate ill-feeling, frequently causing issues within the classroom and playground. In these circumstances, staff spend a great deal of time trying to remedy the situation. This is not within the remit of Dales Park staff.

It is important to remember that these Social Media Apps have age limits. These age limits have been set for specific reasons. If you allow your child to use an App that has an age limit that is older than your child/children, it is your responsibility as the bill payer to ensure they are using it responsibly.

Any pupils who tells a member of staff that they feel they have been bullied, harassed or victimised by another pupil will be

* advised to speak to their parents in the first instance. It is the onus of the parent to take the appropriate action, e.g. removing the App from your child’s/children’s device.
* If the situation continues, staff will speak to individuals concerned advising them to behave responsibly on Social Media.
* If the situation continues to persist, staff will contact each of the pupils’ parents and advise them to contact the police with their concerns.

It is important to note that before an investigation can begin, there must be evidence of the bullying, harassment or victimisation.

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Please return this tear off slip to confirm you have read and understood **Dales Park School’s Social Media policy.**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Child’s/Children’s Names

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ I have read Dales Park School’s Social Media policy and understand it is my responsibility to monitor my child’s/children's use of Social Media Apps.

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