



CROSBY-ON-EDEN C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL

ACADEMY STATUS

Crosby-on-Eden

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HEADTEACHER – MISS A WESTON

27th January 2015

RE: Inappropriate use of Social Network Site

Dear Parent/Carer

At Crosby on Eden CofE Primary we aim to promote a positive working partnership with parents at all times; we are highly committed to working constructively and collaboratively with parents in order that the very best outcomes for our children are realised. From time to time, however, issues can arise where the views of some parents and the school view are apparently at odds with one another. When such issues do arise, we strive to reach conciliation and agreement with parents where at all possible by engaging in open, honest and positive dialogue. As a Governing Body, we feel this is best achieved through meeting and talking with parents face to face.

In the digital age we live in, the use of social media by parents to post negative and defamatory statements about schools and school staff has become a national issue. The vast majority of schools therefore include guidance on the misuse of social media in their home/school agreements and in their E-safety policies, as do we at Crosby on Eden. A copy of our E-safety policy can be found on our website in the policies section.

Social media websites are being used increasingly to fuel campaigns and complaints against schools, Headteachers, school staff, and in some cases other parents/pupils. The Governors of Crosby on Eden CofE Primary consider the use of social media websites being used in this way as unacceptable and not in the best interests of the children or the whole school community. Any concerns you may have must be made through the appropriate channels by speaking to the class teacher, the Headteacher or the Chair of Governors, so they can be dealt with fairly, appropriately and effectively for all concerned.

In the event that any pupil or parent/carer of a child/ren being educated at Crosby on Eden Primary is found to be posting libellous or defamatory comments on Facebook or

other social network sites, they will be reported to the appropriate 'report abuse' section of the network site. All social network sites have clear rules about the content which can be posted on the site and they provide robust mechanisms to report content or activity which breaches this. **The school will also expect that any parent/carer or pupil removes such comments immediately.**

In serious cases the school will also consider its legal options to deal with any such misuse of social networking and other sites. Additionally, and perhaps more importantly, is the issue of cyber bullying and the use by one child or a parent to publicly humiliate another child/parent/member of staff by inappropriate social network entry. We will take and deal with this as a serious incident of school bullying. Thankfully such incidents are extremely rare.

As a school, we are firmly committed to teaching our children to use the internet safely and responsibly; for their own personal protection this is of paramount importance. We therefore expect that parents will do likewise and will model appropriate use of the internet at home. Tuesday 10th February is national E-safety day and we will be running an information event in the afternoon which parents will be invited to attend. Full details will follow shortly.

We look forward to your co-operation in this respect and we would repeat that an appointment can be made with Miss Weston as Headteacher at any time to discuss any issues or concerns around this matter.

Kind Regards,

The Governing Body of Crosby on Eden CofE Primary School (Academy Status)