



Brompton-Westbrook Primary School

THE WESTBROOK TRUST

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Acting Executive Head Teacher: Mrs Jane Heyes

 @BWPrimary

Acting Head of School: Mrs Sue Mason

Facebook and social media use

We are aware that some children are using social media and would like to remind parents and carers of our e-safety policy which will help ensure safe use of the internet.

Children are not able to use social media at school, and use at home should be supervised by parents. We would also ask you to consider that the minimum age for a Facebook account is 13.

Possible risks for children under 13 using the site may include:

- Facebook use "age targeted" advertising and therefore your child could be exposed to adverts of a sexual or other inappropriate nature, depending on the age they stated they were when they registered
- Children may accept friend requests from people they don't know in real life which could increase the risk of inappropriate contact or behaviour
- Language, games, groups and content posted or shared on Facebook is not moderated, and therefore can be offensive, illegal or unsuitable for children
- Photographs shared by users are not moderated and therefore children could be exposed to inappropriate images or even post their own
- Underage users might be less likely to keep their identities private and lying about their age can expose them to further risks regarding privacy settings and options
- Facebook could be exploited by bullies and for other inappropriate contact
- Facebook cannot and does not verify its members therefore it is important to remember that if your child can lie about who they are online, so can anyone else!

We will take action (such as reporting under aged profiles) if a problem comes to our attention that involves the safety or wellbeing of any of our children. Please take a look at the advice for parents/carers from Facebook www.facebook.com/help/?safety=parents We also recommend that all parents visit the CEOP Think U Know website for more information on keeping your child safe online www.thinkuknow.co.uk

Use of social media by adults

Many parents and carers use Facebook and other social media such as Twitter and while we would not want to censor what anyone says on these channels, we would like to remind you that libel laws apply to anything said online and users can be prosecuted and face substantial fines.

Even if you have set your account to private, there is always a risk that something you share could be reposted elsewhere and if what you share on social media sites is defamatory (damaging to someone's reputation) you could be taken to court.

An online comment could be libelous if it damages someone's reputation "in the estimation of right-thinking members of society". It can do this by exposing them to "hatred, ridicule or contempt".

It is a civil offence (rather than a criminal one) so you won't go to prison, but you could end up with a large damages bill. One parent in Kent who criticised a school governor recently faced the prospect of having to pay more than £20,000 in damages.

You can also be sued even if you do not name a person in a defamatory statement. If the person you are talking about can be identified from what you have said, then you can be sued. You can also be sued if you make a defamatory comment online and then delete it.

So whenever you write a status on Facebook, make a Tweet, or comment on an online forum or newspaper article, think twice.

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and achieving equal opportunities and combating discrimination.

