



**Federation of
St Godric's and St Mary's
RCVA Primary Schools**

Twitter Policy

November 2015

This policy is written with consideration to our school commitment to the Rights of the Child and our achievement of becoming a Rights Respecting School. Although direct reference to this is not continuously made, the policy has been written with full awareness of our responsibility and commitment to this purpose.

Aims of Using Twitter:

- To quickly share and celebrate children's achievements, successes and school updates.
- To demonstrate safe and responsible use of social media.
- To encourage the use of 21st Century technology.
- The school Twitter account will be run from school devices by a school staff.

Use of Twitter:

The school Twitter account will be a Public account (June 2015). Senior leaders will monitor the followers and block any who appear to not be school focused.

- The school Twitter account will only tweet between the hours of 8am and 6pm between Monday and Friday. The only time tweets outside of this time are for school events (e.g. football matches, residential trips, performances) or to share urgent school news (e.g. closers due to adverse weather).
- Tweets will only be sent from school iPads or PCs – not staff personal digital technology.
- The school Twitter account will only follow educationally linked accounts. No personal accounts, unless they are educationally linked, will be followed. For example a children's author.
- The school Twitter account will not reply to any 'replies' on Twitter. This is not the platform to discuss or debate school related issues.
- The school Twitter account will only use children's first names when referencing children.
- The school Twitter account will use Twitter to share positive messages about the school.
- The school Twitter account will not post photos of children's faces. It will post photos of work and learning. For example we may share a photo of a child creating a piece of artwork that features the child's hands or back of the head.

If the child's unidentifiable photo is used their initials may be used to make reference to the children. E.g. John Smith with be JS.

- The account may be used to share news and information during a school trip. The account will be run by a senior teacher on a 3G connected phone for the period of the trip. Photos taken on the phone for the purpose of sharing on Twitter will be deleted once they have been shared.
- *Individually targeted content* will not be posted e.g. "Well done Josh a better lesson today". Tweets to a year group or class along the lines of "don't forget the..." are acceptable. Although always think about the most effective way to communicate important information.

- Use of the @twittername of others is to be avoided unless it is used for educational connections. For example “*excited about @dexnott speaking to us*”.
- By endorsing twitter we may be encouraging children to use twitter so reinforce e-safety rules such as “Never tweet anything that would be potentially upsetting; make sure you know how to report to anything you find that disturbs you; be careful who you talk to they may not be all they appear; never meet anyone from twitter world without telling your parents.” Etc.
- Twitter’s own safety rules can be read on:
https://support.twitter.com/groups/33-report-abuse-or-policyviolations#topic_166

This policy was written by the Senior Leadership Team following discussions with the teaching and support staff.

This policy will be reviewed in June 2018.