



St Thomas of Canterbury School,  
A Catholic Voluntary Academy,  
Chancet Wood Drive,  
Sheffield, S8 7TR

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**Head of School:** Liam Colclough

**Executive Head:** Andrew Truby

### **Parent/Carer and Pupil Acceptable Use Policies Agreements**

As part of the programme of activities in school, all pupils have the opportunity to access a wide range of communication technology resources. These resources are an essential part of promoting children's learning and development; however, we also recognise the potential risks associated with these technologies. We therefore have an E-Safeguarding and Acceptable Use Policies in place in school.

In recent years, social networking sites such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Snapchat have grown in popularity and many people use them to communicate with family and friends. The vast majority of people who use social networking show respect in their communication with others and is something we must encourage to show our children that we are positive 'digital role models'. However, there are times when people disregard the rules and will use social networking sites to cyberbully and harass others.

There have been a number of high-profile cases in the media where people have used the internet to intimidate and bully others. The police have investigated these cases and in some instances have led to criminal prosecutions.

**As a school, we encourage our parents to support us with the education and wellbeing of their children and if at any time, parents feel they have issues regarding their child's education, they should see their class teacher. If the issue has not been resolved then an appointment can be made with the Head teacher. We also have a complaints policy on the school website if deemed necessary.**

**As a community, we should all frown upon the use of social networking sites by parents to criticise and make unsubstantiated comments about the school or any members of staff.**

We do not want to go down the line of sending out legal letters from solicitors to parents about untrue and damaging comments made on social networking sites. Current laws such as the 1988 Malicious Communication Act, 1997 Protection from Harassment Act and 2003 Communication Act can be used to protect people from damaging, malicious and threatening posts on the internet.



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If an incident is reported to school staff, it should be investigated and, if school deem it appropriate, will be acted upon by the school's Head teacher and Safe Guarding Lead. In extreme cases, the Head teacher would consider whether it appropriate to notify the police or solicitors to take further action.

Therefore, as a Parent/Carer, you are asked to:

- Read the **Parent/Carers Acceptable Use Agreement**
- Read and talk to your child about their **Pupil Acceptable Use Agreement**
- Parent/Carer and child to **sign the agreement** on the enclosed form and **return to school**.

*(NB This is the school's policy for Parent/Carers and Pupil's Acceptable Use)*

If you disagree with any of the rules within the agreements or feel there is an area of Internet Safety you feel is not being developed please contact the Head teacher.

***Please remember, all children in school are taught how to keep safe and be responsible when they are online, whether they are at school or at home. As children are able to access the internet outside school, whether this is at home, a friend's house or on a mobile device, we need to work in partnership with you the parent/carer to keep our children, staff and community safe.***

**Parent / Carer Acceptable Use Agreement:**

- I have read and discussed the agreement with my child and confirm that he/she has understood what the rules mean.
- I understand that the school will take all reasonable precautions to ensure that pupils cannot access inappropriate materials.



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- I understand that occasionally, inappropriate materials may be accessed and accept that the school will endeavour to deal with any incident that may arise, according to policy.
- I agree that the school is not liable for any damages arising from use of the Internet facilities.
- I understand that my son's/daughter's activity will be monitored and that the school will contact me if they have concerns about any possible breaches of the Internet Safety Rules or Pupil Acceptable Use Agreement.
- I understand not to upload any photos of St Thomas of Canterbury pupils at any school event (for example, assemblies/sports days/plays or school trips) onto a social media site.
- I understand that everything posted on a social networking site should be deemed as open to the public and it is therefore unacceptable to use this as a forum for posting inappropriate, damaging or malicious comments about the school or any members of the school community. (I will approach the class teacher and/or Head teacher with any concerns or issues I have with my child's education)

*Many Thanks*

*Mr Jo Robinson*

*(E-Safety Coordinator and CEOP Ambassador)*