



SUNLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

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SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

This policy provides guidance for learners and their parents as to the use of social media, which for the purpose of this policy includes, but is not limited to, social networking sites, social networking apps.

The policy has been instituted to protect learners, parents and staff of Sunlands Primary School, as well as the good name of the school and promote the responsible use of all social media platforms and networks.

The school respects the individual privacy of educators, non-educators and learners. However, this privacy does not extend to their work-related conduct or to the use of equipment, resources or supplies provided by the school.

According to the Regulation of Interception of Communications and Provision of Communication-related Information Act 70 of 2002, "any person ... may intercept any communication if he or she is a party to the communication, unless such communication is intercepted by such person for purposes of committing an offence". As such, the school may therefore intercept any communication that is conveyed through the school's information systems or social media platforms and that refers to any information regarding the school.

Learners should be aware that any conduct, even in their private capacity, which impacts on the interests of the School, must be in accordance with the School's rules and policies. A learner may face disciplinary action should their actions on social media be found to be in violation of the code of conduct. This is applicable whether or not the action occurs during school hours or on school grounds.

Rules:

1. A learner may not post:
 - 1.1 Information, comments or images which may damage the name or reputation of the school, current or former staff, other learners, suppliers, parents and stakeholders;
 - 1.2 any person's/student's private information (including photographs or images of the person) of whatever nature, without the authority of the person /parent/guardian;
 - 1.3 any inappropriate, obscene or pornographic images; (this includes taking or sending photos of oneself)
 - 1.4 any communication or image which may be defamatory or violate the rights of any party;
 - 1.5 any communication which is offensive, threatening, abusive, harmful, hateful, malicious, discriminatory, demeaning, derogatory or which amounts to unlawful harassment or discrimination;

1.6 illicit photos, profanity or other derogatory content;

2. Learners must ensure that the contents of their postings are accurate, ethical and legal.

3. Accountability

3.1 All members of a Whatsapp group can be held responsible for the posts of an individual member and or the administrator of the group. If you see posts that violate the schools code of conduct, exit the group immediately and report the content where necessary.

3.2 Learners are reminded that they are responsible for monitoring their social media platforms and are required to remove any content that violates the code of conduct, whether posted by themselves or a third party.

4. Should the name of the school not be referenced, it is highly recommended that in so far as possible, parents address matters that arise on social media directly amongst themselves – with as much sensitivity as the matter requires- particularly if the incidences

: are isolated in nature

: involve minor cases of swearing, use or distribution of crude images and/or audio

: involve a conversation/disagreement between existing friends/friendship groups

