



Social networking

Policy statement

At Little Squirts we recognise that the internet provides a number of benefits for staff and parents. However, when someone is identified with the setting or discusses their work, they are expected to behave appropriately when on the internet. The principles set out in this policy should always be followed. If in doubt, then details should be discussed in the first instance with the owner or manager.

Social networking sites allow photographs, videos and comments to be shared with thousands of other users. However, it is not appropriate to share work-related information whether written or pictorial in this way. Staff members should respect the privacy and the feelings of others.

Staff are in a professional position and are responsible for the care and education of children. Therefore, they must not engage in activities on the internet, which might bring the setting or its associated employees into disrepute.

Our use of social networking applications, such as Facebook, has implications for our duty to safeguard children, young people and vulnerable adults. Parents must be reminded that they are not permitted to take photographs of other children unless consent has been given and photographs of other children must never be uploaded to any social media site.

Aims

- That our duty to safeguard children is maintained
- That the setting is not exposed to legal risk
- That the reputation of the setting is not adversely affected
- That our users are able to clearly distinguish where information provided via social networking applications is legitimately representative of the setting
- That we do not damage our reputation
- That we recognise our legal responsibilities

Objectives and procedures

- Sites to be aware of include: Social networking sites (i.e. Facebook, Bebo, Myspace, Chat roulette), blogs (i.e. Blogger), discussion forums (i.e. Mumsnet, Ming), collaborative spaces (i.e. Wetpaint), media sharing services (i.e. You Tube) , microblogging (i.e. Twitter)
- All staff should bear in mind that information they share through social networking applications, even though they are on private spaces, are still subject to copyright, data protection and freedom of information legislation, the safeguarding vulnerable groups act 2006 and other legislation.

- There will be no mention of the setting, names of staff, Committee members or attending children or their families.
- Professionalism must be considered at all times. Staff should not encourage parents as friends on social networking sites. If a staff member is friends with a parent prior to their child attending the setting, it should be considered that they be removed as friends for the period their child is attending.
- There will be no uploading of photos of staff, or children and their families on any site
- Any communications or content you publish that causes damage to the setting or any of its employees, children or families may amount to misconduct or gross misconduct and could lead to dismissal.
- Social networking sites must not be accessed at any time by staff whilst they are present at nursery, this includes using the work mobile phone. Failing to adhere to this rule may result in disciplinary action.

This policy was adopted by Little Squirts Preschool on 29th July 2019 (review date 1st July 2020)

Signed.....

Name.....

Role.....