

Twitter Policy

at St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Birchley



Date of policy	March 2020
Policy Reviewed	
Next Review	October 2021
Signed Head Teacher	
Signed Chair of Governors	



Mission Statement:

St. Mary's Catholic Primary School, Birchley

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St. Mary's School is a safe and happy place, where we follow Jesus by living, loving, learning and working together.

St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Birchley

Twitter Policy

Rationale:

If St Mary's isn't looking after its Social Media... Someone else is!

In this technology rich world our pupils, parents and the wider community live in, Social Media is becoming more and more part of daily life. When agencies like Ofsted release new guidance on social media days before it appears elsewhere, it's important that staff at St Mary's RC Primary School embrace Twitter to not only keep up to date with important changes that can impact learning in their classroom, but also to connect with teachers across the globe who are sharing resources, ideas and discussing important aspects of education. This policy will explain acceptable use of Twitter relating to the St Mary's RC Primary School twitter account: @StMarysrcpb. The policy will explain the purpose of Twitter in St Mary's RC Primary School and the benefits that will arise from its proper use.

What is Twitter?

Twitter is a social media tool that currently has no age restrictions for its use (although the minimum recommended age is 13 years old). Twitter is used to communicate thoughts and ideas within 280 characters and usually references people, places and activities that tend to invite replies. Twitter accounts can follow other Twitter accounts or be followed by other Twitter accounts and all tweets are public. Users are able to Direct Message (DM) other users should they wish something not to be made for public viewing.

Why will St Mary's Primary School staff be using Twitter?

The reason St Mary's RC Primary school and staff will be using Twitter is twofold.

1. To share and showcase the wonderful things happening at St Mary's RC Primary school.
2. For staff to engage in educational discussions that can enrich their own practice.

Twitter will not be used to engage with individual parents directly, however, important announcements and notices could be sent as part of general communication to parents. Staff accounts will belong to the staff and they will be solely responsible for their tweets and unless staff are linking their class blogs, direct reference to the school should be avoided. Tens of thousands of teachers in the UK are on Twitter, and this is why we at St Mary's RC Primary School are keen for our teachers to join.

(Please note: Teachers will not be tied to a specific number of Tweets per day/week)

The St Mary's RC Primary School account:

Teachers within school will have access to the official school twitter account. As the school moves forward with Twitter, other staff members may be invited to tweet from the official school account. Should this happen, this policy will be updated.

Twitter etiquette:

Any Tweets from the official school account will be grammatically correct and will not contain text language like lol, gr8 or l8r. Some tweets may contain hashtags. Hashtags are things you can add to tweets like #edchat #PrimaryRocks this enables tweets to be added to a collection of other related tweets that are generally viewed by more people.



Deputy Mitchell @DeputyMitchell · 3d

There's a determination in the air here at Withnell Fold as pupils in Year 5/6 create their first blog posts for YOU! Keep an eye on withnellfoldblogs.net/class42019/ as their posts are published. #edchat #ukedchat

🗨️ 1 ❤️ 5

In this tweet, you can see a request to view a new blog post and the hashtag #edchat.

Safeguarding pupils:

In order to safeguard the pupils at St Mary's RC Primary School, no names of pupils will be used alongside any pictures of pupils. St Mary's RC Primary School seeks parental consent of all the pupils for the use of photographs, videos and first names. Tweets sent by St Mary's RC Primary School will adhere to this list. If tweets are sent inviting people to view work or a blog post by an individual pupil, only their first name will be used.

Who can follow St Mary's RC Primary School?

Anyone can follow the school's Twitter account. Weekly checks will take place by the administrator or a member of the SLT to check recent followers. Any user following the school account that is deemed unsuitable or not adding any value to the school will be blocked. The SLT will make this decision on a case-by-case basis. Parents will be encouraged to follow the official school account to receive the information the school is posting up to Twitter.

UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD PUPILS BE ALLOWED TO FOLLOW STAFF.

Should pupils request to follow a staff account, the staff member is to block the pupil and inform a member of the SLT at their earliest convenience.

In order to maintain privacy and professionalism we also ask that staff and parents with personal/individual accounts should not follow each other.

(THE LEGAL AGE FOR OWNING A TWITTER ACCOUNT IS 13 YEARS OLD)

Please see <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/networks/twitter/> for further information

What is inappropriate content and referencing and how will it be dealt with?

St Mary's RC Primary School welcomes referencing, interaction or mentions. St Mary's RC Primary School deems any of the following as inappropriate:

- Offensive language or remarks aimed at the school, its staff, parents, governors or others affiliated with the school;
- Unsuitable images or content posted into its feed;
- Unsuitable images or content finding its way from another's account into the St Mary's RC Primary School feed.
- Images or text that infringe upon copyright;
- Comments that aim to undermine the school, its staff, parents, governors or others affiliated with the school. Any inappropriate content will be reported to Twitter and its users will be blocked. Furthermore, incidents of a more serious nature may be reported to the appropriate authority.