

## RCCS FAQs: TWITTER

### What is Twitter and how does the school use it?



Twitter is basically a “microblogging” site. It allows its users to send short messages- called “Tweets”- from computers and mobile devices in real time, perhaps with links to pictures, videos or other web pages. For us, this can be important (and sometimes urgent) information such as “*School is closed due to snow today*” or “*Reminder: GCSE start for Y11 on Monday.*” We also send links to articles in the press or news from our own website, and interesting pictures such as successful school sports teams, artwork or pictures of school events.

If a trip goes abroad we can publish a photo as soon as the group has arrived safely. Just before the start of term we tweeted a link explaining the situation regarding the shortage of new school ties which many parents and pupils found really useful.

### How much does it cost?

Twitter is a free service - although there may be cost implications from a mobile device

### How can I access the school’s “Tweets?”

The school’s tweets can be read directly from our website, [www.risca.org.uk](http://www.risca.org.uk) You can also read them on our dedicated twitter site, [twitter.com/RiscaCCS](https://twitter.com/RiscaCCS) You don’t in fact have to be “on twitter” to do this as our tweets are public.

### What does “Following” mean on Twitter?

You can choose to take it a stage further and join twitter yourself- it’s free. You can then send your own tweets! Your account can be public like ours, or private, so not everyone can read your tweets. Perhaps the best thing though is that you can “follow” different groups and people (including us of course!) and you will then get all their tweets directly to your computer, phone, or other mobile device, just as they come in.

### Who else is on Twitter?

We were one of the first schools in the UK to be on twitter, almost certainly the first in Wales. Lots of other organisations are on there too. For example, most sports teams have official feeds, the BBC has several as do other media. The Prime Minister and US President tweet, as do countless other politicians, journalists, singers, sportsmen and women, other celebrities- and “ordinary” people across the world!

twitter



### Is it safe to use?

As parents/carers we advise you to monitor all your children’s e-communications and web usage for inappropriate content. As a social networking site, Twitter is not dissimilar to Facebook and you and your families should therefore exercise normal caution in terms of disclosing information that might be read by inappropriate people or forming links with unknown users. You should be aware that we do not allow access to these sites at school- except for our own twitter feed of course! Following people isn’t an issue, but if you are going to send tweets yourself you might want to keep privacy settings tight and only allow agreed followers. And sending an open tweet stating that you are off on holiday for example is probably unwise if your house is going to be left vacant for a fortnight!