

RCCS FAQs: Facebook



What is Facebook?

Facebook is an international social networking site. It allows individuals and groups to share information and interact on line. Find out more at www.facebook.com or look it up on Wikipedia.

I avoid these things if I can. Please don't tell me I have to get involved!

Absolutely not! We will always communicate through more formal and traditional ways such as letters and most importantly perhaps our official website. If you use Facebook anyway it's a good idea to like us as a way of keeping informed. If you do avoid things like this however, please bear in mind that your children probably don't- check out the guidance on the school website and see the final paragraph of this document.

Why does RCCS get involved in Facebook?

It's an opportunity to interact with our community in a more informal way. What we put on Facebook is pretty much the same as we put on Twitter. We know lots of people use social networking so we think we should as well.

You say 'interact'..... Should we use the page to communicate with the school?

We do monitor the site and respond to comments when appropriate, though we cannot always do so. On very rare occasions our response might be to delete a comment if it's controversial or in some way compromising! While this is a place for informality, remember it is an open forum so we certainly don't want to embarrass anyone. If you have formal comments to make about the school please go through alternative channels: call, email, or write to the school. We are no longer able to respond to Facebook "messages" so please contact us by email or phone the school during office hours instead. By the way, we like a positive comment, a share and a "like" on our posts as much as everyone else does!

So what do you post?

Have a look! News about the school, links we think may be of interest, school sports results, quizzes and games, upcoming events. On average we post about ten times a week, but it can be more at certain times, a good example being if the school is closed due to snow for example. We can then use the page to keep you updated and set work. It's great for people with mobile devices, and during emergencies you can even adjust your settings to get an alert when we post something new.

Do I have to be a Facebook user myself?

To see our Facebook page, yes. However the content is similar to our twitter feed. And you can see this at twitter.com/RiscaCCS or by following us on Twitter- see the relevant FAQ sheet.



Can the children get involved?

Yes- but see our policy and guidance, and check privacy settings-yours and theirs. We all know the Internet can be a dangerous place- all the more reason indeed for parents and schools to keep an eye on it. Facebook operates a '13+ only' age restriction Remember this is just their policy, it's not the law, and it does not appear to be monitored or enforced.

I am still worried about this...

You're right to be. So are we. Rest assured we take any inappropriate use of social networking sites very seriously and Internet safety is a crucial part of our PSE and ICT lessons. Sadly there is a downside to all this.. cyber-bullying, grooming and predatory behaviour, viruses, data corruption and Internet fraud. But the Internet is there and it's developing all the time: we won't defeat these things and these people by burying our heads in the sand and ignoring them. Remember! If in doubt, log out!