



**OUR COMMUNITY,
OUR SCHOOL**
...making the difference

**EIN CYMUNED,
EIN HYSGOL**
...yn gwneud gwahaniaeth

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John Kendall
Head Teacher
Prifathro

Thursday 23rd November 2017

Dear Pupils and Parents/Carers,

I am becoming concerned by the misuse and in some cases abuse of social media over a range of platforms within our community, and I want to take this opportunity to make our position clear.

PUPILS

If we hear of cases where pupils have made inappropriate comments about other people, whether staff, pupils, or parents, we will pursue the matter and take action as necessary. We will also take action in cases where inappropriate photographs or video footage is shared. Sanctions will range from less serious punishments such as detentions up to and including permanent exclusion from school, depending on the nature of the misbehaviour. We will not tolerate unkindness and in particular we will not tolerate actions which seek to humiliate or otherwise hurt members of our school community. We also have an important role in educating our students in how they should use social media and we take this very seriously at RCCS. Some schools have resorted to banning phones in an attempt to cut down on the problem; I do not feel this is necessary, nor do I believe it is especially effective, but it is something we may need to reconsider.

PARENTS AND OTHERS

We clearly do not have the same responsibility or authority in cases where people who are not pupils at the school are engaging in inappropriate behaviour on social media. Wanting to share frustrations with friends over certain decisions the school has taken is natural enough. However we would urge adults to consider the effect this may have on the young people in our community, especially in cases which cause friction between families. Our school would never bring problems to social media, and we are right to expect others in our community to adhere to the same moral code.

In cases where frustrations become threats, whether explicit or implied, or there is clear evidence of victimisation, or breaking of the law in any shape or form, we will always refer the matter to the Police.

I have to say that the very large majority of our community, whether pupils or parents, do not become involved in this sort of behaviour. Our use of social media as a school was ground-breaking eight or so years ago, and we appeared in several articles and blogs as an example of sector-leading practice in this regard. When used properly, it remains a fantastic vehicle for sharing things. When misused or abused it can cause considerable distress. If you /your child is affected by such issues we would urge you to make us aware.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'J. Kendall'.

John Kendall

Head Teacher / Prifathro