



Sutton Green Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs A. Griffiths

'Together Helping Every Child'

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USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

Dear Parents/Carers,

The school is aware that some parents have used Facebook to publish their opinion regarding actions that the school/ staff have taken with regards to the care of their child or other children.

I am writing to highlight the fact that often people can be unaware how easy it is to be defamatory on social media. The law of defamation exists to protect the reputation of a person but also to support a person's right to free speech. The law states that if someone communicates FALSE information about a person or a group and that information results in the person or group suffering an injury to their reputation, then that is libel and slander. (Libel if in writing, slander if spoken).

As a school, one of our primary objectives is to ensure your child is safe and happy and if a false claim is made about our actions or behaviours as a school and such claim could jeopardise our reputation, we would have to consider what action we could take to rectify this. As parents of children at our school, we hope that you will support us in the mutual goal of projecting a positive and accurate image of our school.

Tips for avoiding defamation via social media:

- Consider anything you write on a social media profile the same as if you were publishing it in a newspaper.
- Do not repeat anything that you cannot verify as true.
- Do not "Share" or "ReTweet" any details that you believe could be considered defamatory.
- Before you post information on other people, think about how this could be perceived and whether the information could harm their reputation.
- If you are worried about Twitter then protect your profile; only permit people you approve of to gain access to your home-page. On Facebook, increase your privacy settings so that only your friends can view your profile.
- Importantly, do not let friends of friends view your profile, because your friends may not exercise as much discretion as you do when approving their friends on Facebook.
- Finally, if you are not happy with something that may have occurred in school – then you must speak with your child's class teacher as opposed to writing your opinion on social media.

Many thanks in anticipation of your support

Mrs A Griffiths HT