



Online Safety and Use of Social Media

Online safety is an important part of keeping children safe at Goat Lees Primary School. We can only be successful in keeping all our children safe online if we work with you to ensure that online safety messages are consistent and that all members of the community behave safely and appropriately online.

We are writing to you to request your support in ensuring that our children have responsible online role models when posting and sharing content on social media sites. Whilst we are all entitled to have our own views and opinions, we would ask that all members of our school community consider how comments may be misunderstood or misinterpreted when shared online and the possible impact and consequences on pupils, parents/carers and staff of online actions. In particular, I would request that you refrain from naming members of staff or pupils as this is a safeguarding matter.

There are a number of social media platforms that individuals use to share information and we are aware that Facebook is very popular. Indeed, the Friends of Goat Lees use this site to publicise events and update their members and it is a tool that many people find extremely valuable for keeping in touch and sharing ideas.

In a democratic society, we value being able to express our opinions. However, social media sites are being used increasingly to air views and complaints against schools, Headteachers, school staff, and in some cases other parents or pupils. If the opinions expressed are inaccurate and could potentially damage the reputation of our School, we are within our rights to request the posts or page be withdrawn.

Any concerns you may have about the school or your child/children must be made through the appropriate channels by speaking to the class teacher, the FLO (Mrs Shepherd), myself as Headteacher or in the final instance the Chair of Governors. We are always willing to meet with parents/carers to work together to resolve issues and ensure the very best for your child.

Finally, on a positive note, may I take this opportunity to thank those of you who have posted comments on a local Ashford forum as these have been extremely complimentary - it is gratifying to see how much parents value what we do.

T A Adams