



NEW INDIAN SCHOOL, RAS AL KHAIMAH
SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY FOR STAFF, PUPILS, PARENTS

Rationale

The internet provides a range of social media tools that allow users to engage, and communicate in new and exciting ways. It is important that we are able to use these technologies and services effectively and flexibly. The benefits of a range of social media applications as a popular medium of communication, it is also important to ensure that we balance this with our duties to our school, the community, our legal responsibilities and our reputation.

For example, our use of social networking applications has implications for our duty to safeguard children, young people and vulnerable adults. This policy sets out a framework of good practice that pupils, staff and the wider community are expected to follow when using social media.

The principles set out in this policy are designed to ensure that the use of social media is responsibly undertaken and that confidentiality of pupils and staff and the reputation of the school are safeguarded.

SCOPE

This policy applies to NEW INDIAN SCHOOL pupils, staff, parents and the wider school community.

Under no circumstances may NEW INDIAN SCHOOL logos, typefaces or brands be used or

published on any personal web space or on any online or offline medium without prior consent. These are registered trademarks, patents and the property of NEW INDIAN SCHOOL.

This policy covers personal use of social media as well as the use of social media for official school purposes, including sites hosted and maintained on behalf of the school.

This policy applies to personal web space such as social networking sites (for example Facebook, MySpace, Instagram, SnapChat), blogs, microblogs such as Twitter, chatrooms, forums, podcasts, WhatsApp, open access online encyclopedias such as Wikipedia, social bookmarking sites such as del.icio.us and content sharing sites such as flickr and YouTube. The internet is a fast moving technology and it is impossible to cover all circumstances or emerging media – the principles set out in this policy must be followed irrespective of the medium.

RELATED POLICIES

- **STAFF HANDBOOK, RULES AND PROCEDURE**

PRINCIPLES – BE RESPONSIBLE AND RESPECTFUL

- Users should be conscious at all times of the need to keep their personal

and professional/school lives separate. They should not put themselves in a position

where there is a conflict between the school and their personal interests;

- Users should not engage in activities involving social media which might bring NEW INDIAN SCHOOL

into disrepute;

- Users should not represent their personal views as those of NEW INDIAN SCHOOL on any social medium eg. Facebook, WhatsApp Groups

- Users should not discuss personal information about other pupils, School and the

wider community they interact with on any social media;

- Users should not use social media and the internet in any way to attack, insult,

abuse or defame pupils, their family members, colleagues, other professionals,

PERSONAL USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

- Pupils and members of the wider school community should not identify themselves as members of NEW INDIAN SCHOOL in their personal web-space, unless specifically linked to an

approved job role within the School community where it serves a purpose to professionally market the school. This is to prevent information being linked with the school and to safeguard the privacy of staff members, pupils and parents and the wider school community.

- Pupils should not have contact through any personal social medium with any member of staff, whether from NEW INDIAN SCHOOL or any other school, other than those mediums approved by the School.

- If pupils and members of the wider school community wish to communicate with staff they should only do so through the approved medium, official emails.

- Information that pupils and members of the wider community have access to as part of their involvement with NEW INDIAN SCHOOL including personal information, should not be discussed on their personal web space.
- Photographs, videos or any other types of image of pupils and their families or images depicting staff members, clothing with school logos or images identifying school premises should not be published on personal or public web space without prior permission from the school
- We advise that school email addresses should not be used for setting up personal social media accounts or to communicate through such media.
- All staff, parents, pupils and members of the wider community are strongly advised to ensure that they set the privacy levels of their personal sites as strictly as they can and to opt out of public listings on social networking sites to protect their own privacy.
- All staff, parents, pupils and members of the wider community should keep their passwords confidential, change them often and be careful about what is posted online. Information staff members have access to as part of their employment, including personal information about students and their family members, colleagues, other affiliated parties and school corporate information must not be discussed in their personal web space.
- Pupils and the wider school community should not post images or videos from school events on any public social media site unless permission is sought by the school.

Sites like LinkedIn may be used for professional purposes to highlight a personal profile with summarised detail. However the school advises

that care is taken to maintain an up to date profile and a high level of presentation on such sites if NIS is listed.

USING SOCIAL MEDIA

- Pupils should only use official school sites for communicating with staff, or with other pupils to communicate with one another for the purposes of an educational context.
- GroupWise, iSAMS, Google Docs, Edmodo and Firefly VLE are the current platforms by which staff and pupils should communicate and no other medium should be used without careful consideration.

The school is responsible for running its official website. No other social media platforms may be set up by any member of the whole school community which have a direct or indirect connection with School.

Usage of certain media is permissible during school hours by pupils, provided requisite permissions are sought and granted in accordance to school policy.

MONITORING OF INTERNET USE

- NIS monitors usage of its internet, online content, online services and email services without prior notification or authorisation from users.
- Users of NEW INDIAN SCHOOL email and internet services should have no expectation of privacy in anything they create, store, send or receive using the school's ICT system.

- All Pupils, staff and members of wider community should refrain from downloading unauthorised, unwarranted and inappropriate content using the school Internet.