

## **Social Media Policy - Statement**

It has come to the attention of Wheatfields Primary School Governing Body that postings of inappropriate natures have been made on Social Media about other children in our school and members of staff. These comments have been posted on personal Facebook pages and on Facebook Group sites.

The governing body has sought advice and feel you should be advised that comments which are published to any third party and which “disparage a claimant in his business, trade, office or profession” or “expose the claimant to hatred, ridicule or contempt” constitute libel.

### **The Facebook Code of Conduct states:**

‘While we believe users should be able to express themselves and their point of view, certain kinds of speech simply do not belong in a community like Facebook. You may not post or share content that:-

- Makes threats of any kind or intimidates, harasses or bullies anyone
- Is derogatory, demeaning, malicious, defamatory, abusive, offensive or hateful.’

The Governing Body agree with Facebook that you should be able to express a point of view and also agree that posts that share threats or derogatory, demeaning, malicious, defamatory, abusive, offensive or hateful will not be tolerated.

Furthermore, since statements cannot be defended as fair comment and are not based on true facts these comments will be construed as clearly intended maliciously.

Firstly, we would like to request that anyone who has got complaints about any of the policies or any member of staff to go through the formal or informal complaints procedure that is on the website. We have attached a copy of the procedure.

Secondly, we would like to stress that the school and the governing body take duty of care seriously. Any comments which disparage any member of staff in his/her professional capacity or expose them to ridicule will be taken seriously and referred to the police who could take action under ‘hate crime’ procedures.

We are very proud of our school and are always looking to improve it further. We welcome suggestions and comments and we hope all issues and complaints can be resolved in a positive manner.

We thank you in advance for your cooperation and look forward to working with you in providing our children the best possible education.