

# Distance Learning Plan Unexpected School Closure

## مَدْرَسَةُ الْخَلِيجِ النَّمُوذَجِيَّةِ Gulf Model School



## CYBER SAFETY POLICY FOR DISTANCE LEARNING 2020-2021



## INTRODUCTION

Social media presents opportunities for both schools and individuals to communicate with new and existing audiences. Whilst recognizing the benefits of social media, this policy sets out the expectations that all Gulf Model School staff, students and parents are expected to follow when using personal or school sanctioned accounts. This will help the School to embrace these new technologies, whilst at the same time prioritizing the safeguarding of children.

## OBJECTIVES

- The School endeavors to adopt a common-sense pragmatic approach to the use of social media.
- Everyone should be aware of their digital footprint and how they can protect their identity online.
- As a community we need to ensure that communication is polite and presents the school in a positive light.
- It is essential that our top priority remains the safeguarding of children.

## EXPECTATIONS

### For all

Content should not be published by staff, students or parents, on any social network, personal or school sanctioned, that could bring the School into disrepute.

### Social Media and Education

Staff members, who wish to use social media accounts for educational purposes, should ensure these have been authorized by the designated Head of Department.

### Social Media and Communication between Staff and Pupils:

All staff must not enter into personal communications with students (i.e. 'direct message' students) using social media accounts.

The only acceptable channels of personal communication between staff and pupils are those set up by the School, where the school reserves the right to monitor communication (and thus protect staff from allegations).



### **Parent & Pupil Expectations of Social Media Use.**

Parents and students in all Year levels using any social media forum must, at all times, demonstrate respect for the members of the school community, including all students and personnel.

Parents and students must not breach confidentiality, defame or make threats to any person in the school community.

Instances of proven and intentional breach of the above will result in sanctions that may include suspension from the school or refusal to re-enroll the student for the next academic year.

### **Appropriate Age for Social Media Accounts**

In accordance with the terms and conditions of many popular social networks (e.g. Facebook), the School recommends that no children, under the age of 13, should have publicly visible social media accounts

### **THE SCHOOL NETWORK** – Which Social Media Sites Are Accessible.

#### **Parents should be aware that:**

Giving children Smartphones with high internet speed & efficiency is to give them unrestricted access to the Internet.

Any measures the School takes to reduce access to Social Media sites though Web filtering its Internet access can be negated Smartphone Internet access through 3G/4G.

The School blocks the following Social Media sites on its WIFI network that is accessible to pupils:

**Facebook** – because it is a distraction during the School working day.

**Instagram** – because it is a distraction during the School working day.

**Snapchat** – because it is a distraction during the School working day.

#### **Help and Support:**

Additional help and support on how to apply privacy settings on popular media sites can be helped by the respective team.



## Appendix

### Cyberbullying

Cyberbullying occurs when technology is used to convey the bullying message to the victim and to those around the victim.

Spread of negative messages, negative material, threats resulting in widespread dissemination with the intent to cause emotional, social trauma and defamation can be punishable by law.

In teaching children, and young adults, about their use of social media, the importance of maintaining their reputation should be stressed at all times.