



Peter's Patch
Forest School - Day Care - After School Club

Social Networking Policy

The widespread availability and use of social media applications bring opportunities to understand, engage, and communicate in new and exciting ways. It is important that we can use these technologies and services effectively and flexibly. However, it is also important to ensure that we balance this with our duties to the nursery, 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.

The policy requirements in this document aim to provide this balance to support innovation whilst providing a framework of good practice. They apply to all members of staff within the nursery.

The purpose of the policy is to:

1. Safeguard all children
2. Protect the nursery from legal risks
3. Ensure that the reputation of the nursery and its staff are protected



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It is important that staff ensure proper practice when using the internet including social networking sites. This is to protect the children, parents and other staff in the nursery. It is also to guard the nursery and your personal reputation.

Peter's Patch Day Nursery policy states that staff members are allowed to use any social networking site as long as they follow these guidelines regarding the impact social networking has on the nursery. Failure to comply with the above is an invasion of privacy and may infringe the Confidentiality Policy. The guidelines include but are not limited to:

- Photos of the children will only be published on Peter's Patch Facebook page when signed permission has been received.
- Photos of staff will only be published on Peter's Patch Facebook page when signed permission has been received.
- Staff must not publicly mention any of the children from the nursery on their social networking sites
- Staff must avoid writing direct suggestive comments about the nursery on their social networking sites e.g. "I've had a bad day at work";



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- Staff must not publish photos of the children on their social networking sites
- Staff must not publicly write anything negative about other staff members in relation to work on their social networking sites
- Staff must not mention any of the companies in a negative manner that the nursery works with on their social networking sites
- Staff members are advised to set their online profiles as private so that only friends can see their information. This can help to prevent any accidental breaches of this policy.

Please be aware that serious breach of the Social Networking policy could result in disciplinary action.

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