



*'We believe in respect and success for all'*

## **The Introduction of Social Media (Facebook) and Protocols**

At Oakley Cross we are very fortunate to have supportive and friendly parents who recognise that education is a process that involves partnership between home and school. For these reasons we welcome and encourage parents/carers to participate fully in the life of our school. At the heart of our school are good and positive relationships built on respect and we will do everything we can to encourage these between children, between staff and children and between staff and families.

### **Social Media**

Social media (such as Facebook or Twitter) are powerful and exciting tools that enable greater and more rapid communication between people. Overall, they provide opportunities to forge links and to share so much. We want to make use of social media as a way of connecting more closely with families and the wider community. In school we guide and advise our staff on the best use of social media to safeguard them in their work and we guide children through our e-safety curriculum to ensure they remain safe online. We would hope that parents/carers will respect the forum of an Oakley Cross Facebook page and see it as a positive means by which we can share information.

However, we recognise that in some instances social media are being used increasingly to fuel campaigns and complaints against schools, Headteachers, staff, and, in some cases, other parents or children. Oakley Cross primary School and Nursery Unit considers the use of social media websites being used in this way as unacceptable and not in the best interests of the children or the community. Any concerns a parent/carer may have must be made through the appropriate channels by speaking to the relevant member of staff, the Headteacher or the Chair of Governors, so they can be dealt with fairly, appropriately and effectively for all concerned.

In the event that any child or parent/carer of a child being educated at Oakley Cross is found to be posting libellous or defamatory comments on Facebook, Twitter or other social network sites, they will be reported to the appropriate 'report abuse' section of the network site. All social network sites have clear rules about the content which can be posted on the site and they provide robust mechanisms to report contact or activity which breaches this. The school will also expect that any parent/carer removes such comments immediately.

In serious cases, the school will also consider its legal options to deal with any such misuse of social networking and other sites. Additionally, and perhaps more importantly, is the issue of cyber bullying and the use by any member of the school community to publicly humiliate another by inappropriate social network entry. We will take and deal with this as a serious incident of bullying and harassment.