



Plymouth Grove Primary School Twitter Policy

Rationale

The rationale of this policy is to explain acceptable use of Twitter relating to the Plymouth Grove Primary School handle @plymouthgroveps for staff, children, parents and governors. The policy will therefore aim to explain the purpose of Twitter in Plymouth Grove Primary School and the benefits that will arise from its proper use, and also deal with any potential pitfalls from using a web2.0 technology.

What is Twitter?

Twitter is used primarily as a method of communication made up of 140 characters called a 'Tweet'. Tweets tend to reference people, places, and/or activities to which the said referee can respond. Tweeted either directly reference another person or broadcast information to which others can reply and respond.

Twitter users are able to follow or be followed. To follow somebody/thing ensures that all of their activity and comments appear in the followers news feed. The obvious benefit of having followers is that the information you broadcast is instantly distributed into their news feed. Users can also private message each other when they don't want conversations to appear. @plymouthgroveps will not enter into private discussions with others.

What is the primary purpose of @plymouthgroveps?

@plymouthgroveps will be used principally to be followed by staff, parents and other professionals in order to advertise the excellent work by staff, children, parents and governors. It may contain links to the schools other hosting sites, including:

Plymouthgrovetv: A youtube channel used to upload and host videos;

Plymouthgrove.net: where classes add their own work, photographs or polls

Any reference to groups in school will not name a child personally on twitter e.g Look at the amazing fractions work from 5O <http://tinyurl/afoijfo>

The twitter account will also contain information detailing special events in school. The aim of this is to run alongside more traditional methods like sending home letters, and not to replace it.

Who controls content for @plymouthgroveps?

The uploading of content for @plymouthgroveps will be controlled by members of the Senior Leadership Team and the ICT Leader. They alone will be responsible for password protection and uploading of content. When this policy is next reviewed, it is hoped that children at Plymouth Grove Primary School will be trained on how to upload their own content to Twitter.

Who can follow @plymouthgroveps?

At this moment in time, @plymouthgroveps will not allow followers under the age of 21 and will limit its followers to teaching staff (at Plymouth Grove and other schools), Governors and parents (of Plymouth Grove children). It will block followers found to be under the age of 21.

When @plymouthgroveps receives a follow request it will make informed decisions on a case-by-case basis as to accept or decline. These decisions will be based upon a number of factors:

The name of the individual as read on their Twitter account and whether this name correlates to that of a parent on the SIMS database; is a member of the Plymouth Grove teaching staff; Is a school governor; is a known and proper person to the SLT or ICT Leader;

The quality of the biography of each individual as read in the bio section of their Twitter account;

The images on view in the potential followers Twitter account.© Plymouth Grove Primary School

In most cases, one or more of the above will be enough to accept a follow request.

In the unlikely event that a parent, or other suitable follower is inadvertently rejected, the SLT or ICT Leader will hear each individual on a case-by-case basis. These hearings will usually involve the prospective follower making themselves known in person to the above named persons, with their Twitter details, and should take no more than a few minutes.

Who will @plymouthgroveps follow?

In order to protect itself from inappropriate content being distributed into its news feed, @plymouthgroveps will not actively seek to follow personal accounts of people who are not verified by twitter or known personally by a member of SLT. Professional accounts and organisations where the content provided on that feed may support work in class, may be followed while they are providing stimulus of the class. Once again, these will be decided on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the SLT and ICT.

What is inappropriate content and referencing and how will it be dealt with?

@plymouthgroveps welcomes any referencing, mentions, or interactions that posit the school in a positive light only.

The school Twitter account will not reply to any 'replies' on Twitter. This is not the platform to discuss or debate school related issues.

Therefore, Plymouth Grove Primary School deems any of the following as inappropriate:

Offensive language or remarks aimed at the school, its staff, parents, governors or others affiliated with the school;

Unsuitable images or content posted into its feed;

Unsuitable images or content finding its way from another's account into the @plymouthgroveps feed.

Images or text that infringe upon copyright;

Comments that aim to undermine the school, its staff, parents, governors or others affiliated with the school.

Any inappropriate content will be deleted and its users will be removed, blocked, and, depending on the nature of the comment, reported to Twitter. Furthermore, incidents of a more serious nature may be reported to the appropriate authority.

What about class accounts

A class account refers to an account that showcases the work of a particular year group. The above policy is still active however there are additional restrictions on the use of this type of account.

The class teacher who is managing the account must share the password with a member of SLT so that access is available to add, amend or delete the account.

The school Twitter account will only not follow the account of persons under the age of 21. Also they will not follow any personal accounts, unless they are educationally linked and have been checked by the class staff teacher as appropriate by looking at their profile bios and their recent page of tweets. For example a children's author.

Linked Policies & Documents:

E-Safety and AUA

Children Protection and Safeguarding

Behaviour Policy

Date ratified by Governing Body:

Date for review: