

Treoirínite Scoile maidir le ‘Social Media Apps’

Guidelines Regarding School Social Media Apps

The Board of Management at the Gaelscoil Charrraig Ui Leighin strives to encourage and promote a culture of ‘best practice’ in the use of technology within our school. The Board recognises that social media apps such as What’s App, Facebook, Viber etc. are a useful communication tool for parents in organising and discussing class events. It is important that these groups are well-run and that they allow a useful exchange of information, while protecting the well-being of *all members of our school community – parents, children and staff.*



To facilitate this goal, the school’s Board of Management have researched and drafted a number of guidelines which it feels would be useful in the administration of these groups.

- All members of the school community have **a right to have their good name upheld**, including pupils, parents and staff. Due to its public nature, a social-media app is not the appropriate forum for the discussion of incidents, or alleged incidents within the school community. These topics should be dealt with off-line and if school intervention is required, a meeting should be arranged with school staff.
- As some on-line groups have many members, consideration should be given beforehand to the relevance of comments/questions for the entire group. Some **posts regarding homework/uniforms etc. may be better sent to an individual** rather than being posted to the entire group.
- The groups should not become a vehicle for argument or scaremongering. Members are advised to **check the source of their information** before sharing.
- If unsure, group members are advised to ask four questions before posting:
 - Is this relevant?
 - Is this necessary?
 - Is this appropriate?
 - What is the risk of harm to myself and others?

The vast majority of on-line communications within the Gaelscoil have been useful and positive to-date, for which the school is very grateful. In the interests of sustaining this healthy on-line environment, the Board of Management asks that the above guidelines be taken into consideration when setting up and administering school-based social media apps.

If you have questions or suggestions relating to these draft guidelines please contact the office at **oifig@gaelscoilcul.ie**.