

St Thomas More RC Primary



Twitter Policy April 2023

Statement of intent

St Thomas More RC Primary understands that social media is a growing part of life outside of school. We have a responsibility to safeguard our pupils against potential dangers when accessing the internet at school, and to educate our pupils about how to protect themselves online when outside of school.

Mission Statement

Based on the teachings of Jesus Christ and the Church and with the help of everyone As Servants of God, we follow in the footsteps of Jesus Christ. Through His love, we guide each member of our family on their own spiritual and learning journey to achieve and grow.

We Love, We Learn, We Live with Christ.

Rationale

If St Thomas More RC Primary isn't looking after its Social Media – Someone else is!

In this technology rich world our pupils, parents and the wider community live in, Social Media is becoming more and more part of daily life. When agencies like Ofsted release new guidance on Twitter days before it appears elsewhere, it's important that staff at St Thomas More RC Primary embrace Twitter to not only keep up to date with important changes that can impact learning in their classroom but also to connect with teachers across the globe who are sharing resources, ideas and discussing important aspects of education.

This policy explains acceptable use of Twitter relating to St Thomas More RC Primary twitter accounts:

Mrs Butterworth = @StThomasMoreAlk

Mrs Quigg = @Mrs QuiggSTM

Miss Saunders = @MissSaundersSTM

Miss Barran = @MissBarranSTM

Miss Harrison = @MissHarrisonSTM

Miss Winnard = @MissWinnardSTM

Miss O'Donnell = @MissODonnellSTM

Miss Byrne = @MissByrneSTM

Mrs Craven = @MrsCravenSTM

Miss Newton = @MissNewtonSTM

Miss Parkinson = @MissParkinsonSTM

Mrs Owen = @MrsOwenSTM

Miss McBride = @MissMcBrideSTM

Miss Dodd = @MissSDoddSTM

Mrs Hickman = @MrsHickmanSTM

Miss Hughes = @MissHughesSTM

St Thomas More Office = @OfficeSTM

St. Thomas More RC PTA = @PTASTM

The policy explains the purpose of Twitter in St Thomas More RC Primary and the benefits that will arise from its proper use. What is Twitter? Twitter is a social media tool. Twitter is used to communicate thoughts and ideas within 140 characters and usually references people, places and activities that tend to invite replies. Twitter accounts can follow other Twitter accounts or be followed by other Twitter accounts and all tweets are public. Users are able to Direct Message (DM) other users should they wish something not to be made for public viewing.

Why will St Thomas More RC Primary and staff be using Twitter?

The reason we will be using Twitter is twofold.

1. To share and showcase the wonderful things happening at St Thomas More RC Primary.
2. For staff to engage in educational discussions that can enrich their own practice.

At St Thomas More RC Primary each class teacher and SLT will have an account. Therefore there is a significant amount of responsibility assigned to the Tweets. Twitter is used to celebrate and share good practice – unless school is closed for a significant period and parents want to celebrate their child/children's activities. Letters, newsletters and announcements will be shared via Office account or Mrs Butterworth's account or PTA account, they will also be published on the website. The @StThomasMoreAlk linked to the website and re-tweets all other STM accounts.

Twitter Etiquette

Any Tweets from the official school accounts will be grammatically correct and will not contain text language like lol, gr8 or l8r. Some tweets may contain hashtags. Hashtags are things you can add to the end of your tweets like #WeLoveWeLearnWeLivewithChrist or #LoveLearnLive that enable tweets to be added to a collection of other related tweets that are generally viewed by more people.

Twitter 'Champion'

Our Twitter Champion is Miss McBride. She is happy to advise staff regarding creating Tweets and deleting any Tweets that have been created in error.

Safeguarding Pupils

In order to safeguard the pupils at St Thomas More RC Primary, we will ensure that consent has been given by parents on the Annual consent form; limited use of name will be used alongside any pictures of pupils. St Thomas More RC Primary seeks photographic consent of all the pupils. Tweets sent by St Thomas More RC Primary will adhere to this list.

Staff will be considerate and respect any followers to the official accounts as parent or followers will be using their personal accounts to share in the celebration of the wonderful work taking place in school. Any reports of lack of respect will be dealt with severely.

Who can follow St Thomas More RC Primary?

Anyone can follow the school's Twitter account. The @s will all be published on the website. Weekly checks will take place by each teacher to check recent followers. Any user following the school account that is deemed unsuitable must be reported to SLT promptly. Once reported the follower will be blocked this decision will be made by a member of SLT and the teachers will block the follower as soon as the decision has been made. Parents will be encouraged to follow the official school account to receive the information the school is posting up to Twitter. As stated in the staff guide, parents are able to follow staff professional accounts on Twitter. It will be up to the individual teacher to decide whether they will allow parents to follow them or not.

IN NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD STAFF FOLLOW PUPILS.

The current age limit for Twitter is 13, therefore no pupils from school should be following staff, therefore staff couldn't follow pupils.

Parents will be informed if pupils are following staff and SLT should be informed.

What is inappropriate content and referencing and how will it be dealt with? St Thomas More RC Primary welcomes referencing, interaction or mentions.

St Thomas More RC Primary deems any of the following as inappropriate:

1. Offensive language or remarks aimed at the school, its staff, parents, governors or others affiliated with the school;
2. Unsuitable images or content posted into its feed;
3. Unsuitable images or content finding its way from another's account into St Thomas More RC Primary feed.
4. Images or text that infringe upon copyright;
5. Comments that aim to undermine the school, its staff, parents, governors or others affiliated with the school.
6. Children sharing their school email address on Twitter under any circumstance.

Any inappropriate content will be reported to Twitter and its users will be blocked. Furthermore, incidents of a more serious nature may be reported to the appropriate authority and SLT MUST be informed of any infringements.

Appendix 1 – Inappropriate content report form

Appendix 2 Contact details for Twitter (hyperlinks)

Signed by

_____Headteacher

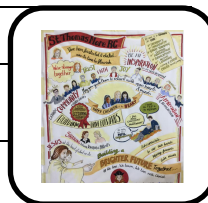
Date: _____

_____Chair of Governors

Date: _____

Appendix 1 – Inappropriate content report form

Inappropriate Tweet content report form



Teacher name:

@:

Nature of inappropriate content:

Safeguarding issue?

Follower blocked (Date):

Report to Twitter

- Yes
- No

Date:

Appendix 2 Contact details for Twitter

Social networking site	Useful links
Twitter	Rules Report to Twitter