

2023-2026

**SOCIAL
MEDIA
STAFF AND CHILDREN**

Focus: DCS Schools & Settings

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SOCIAL MEDIA

Defence Child Services are aware of the benefits of all forms of social media as a means of communication with Command, Stakeholders and the Parent Body. We accept Social Media as part of the wider communication piece for all schools and settings.

Leaders know that no external (i.e. not local to the school or setting) use of or development of social media can be developed without adhering to the DCS Social Media Policy.

In Schools and Settings, we do not expect our pupils to be accessing social media platforms such as WhatsApp, Facebook, Snapchat, TikTok etc as any part of their learning. As ever, our primary concern is for the safety of children and all of our schools and settings comply to age related restrictions for each piece of social media. Whilst we understand that some children access these platforms outside of schools we ensure yearly CEOPS training for all ages of children to support them staying safe online. We also work with older children (13+) on safe use of social media at a different level to younger peers and in some cases with a focus on what their online profile looks like and how to control it.

We recognise that the majority of our communities use social media in a sensible and appropriate way. We also recognise that it is not acceptable to use social media platforms to make negative statements about children, parents, local commands or members of staff. Any groups or individuals who use social media platforms in a negative light will be reported to the Welfare Officers and our school and setting leadership will take any necessary action.

Notes

1) Please see Education & Care Strategy, Development Aspect 8: Standardisation, Alignment & Empowerment: Media – for detailed procedures.

2) The DCS Social Media Directive is under reconstruction and will be available in the near future.