



HEAD OF DEFENCE CHILDREN SERVICES

Social Media Statement

Defence Child Services (DCS) are aware of the benefits of all forms of social media as a means of communication with Command, Stakeholders and the Parent Body. Therefore, we accept social media as part of the wider communication piece for all DCS Schools and Settings.

As a Defence organisation, our overarching social media policy¹ has been written in conjunction with Army Media & Comms to ensure that DCS is fully aligned to MOD policy.

Leaders know that no external (i.e. not local to the School or Setting) use, or development of social media can be developed without adhering to the DCS Social media policy.

In DCS Schools and Settings we do not allow our learners access to social media platforms such as WhatsApp, Instagram, Snapchat, or TikTok, as any part of their learning. All of DCS Schools and Settings comply with age related restrictions on all aspects of social media. Whilst we understand that some children use social media outside school, we formally recommend yearly Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) training to assist children staying safe online. We work with older children on the safe use of social media at a more advanced level, such as controlling their online profile.

We recognise that the majority of our communities use social media in a sensible and appropriate way. However, DCS does not accept the use of social media platforms in a malicious or derogatory way with regards to children, parents, local commands or members of staff. Any use of social media platforms in this capacity will be reported to the Welfare Officers and action will be taken by the School or Setting leadership team against the perpetrators.

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