

Inappropriate use of Social Network Sites

Following recent incidents of abusive comments on social networking sites, including one at our school, the Local Authority have issued the following letter of guidance for parents and carers.

Dear Parent

Following the recent criminal convictions of two people from the region for inappropriate abusive communications on Twitter (please see the news story below), we felt it would be helpful to inform you all of what behaviour is criminal to support you to support the way we all behave on line.

Communication which is abusive, towards an individual and causes harm or distress, or intends to cause harm or distress, breaches the Communication Act 2003 and can be seen to be a criminal offence. This school will be active in referring incidents to the Police where there is evidence that this is the case.

Abusive communication which is general in nature which causes harm to reputation also has a legal consequence and this school will take the appropriate measures with the 'site' involved to remove the communication as quickly as possible.

These are the steps we have to take to ensure we protect our staff, governors and young people in our school and community. Just as we take e safety and bullying very seriously for the young people in our school we also take seriously the communications adults in the community post on line.

If you would like any support in understanding this in more detail or learning how you can ensure your children stay safe on line and behave appropriately, please contact Mr Poppitt.



Pair jailed over abusive tweets to feminist campaigner



Sorley and Nimmo bombarded Ms Criado-Perez with messages last July

Two people have been jailed for sending abusive messages on Twitter to feminist campaigner Caroline Criado-Perez.

Isabella Sorley, 23, of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, was sentenced to 12 weeks in prison and John Nimmo, 25, of South Shields, was jailed for eight weeks.

They had pleaded guilty at Westminster Magistrates' Court to improper use of a communications network.

After sentencing, Ms Criado-Perez said she was relieved the judge understood the impact the abuse had had on her.

Related Stories

Two guilty over abusive tweets

Campaigner 'upset' over charges

Twitter abuse victim condemns police