



Plaxtol School Association Social Media Policy

This policy explains how the Plaxtol School Association (PSA) uses social media. It is available and applies to all members of the PSA. It is distinct from any policies the school may publish.

Details of the social media used by our association

The PSA uses the following social media platforms:

- Facebook (www.facebook.com/groups/plaxtolschoolparents)
- WhatsApp groups (including class groups; PSA Committee group)

There is also a PSA section to the Plaxtol School website, with information about the PSA and minutes from meetings (www.plaxtol.kent.sch.uk/psa/).

Access to the social media used by our association

The PSA Facebook page and WhatsApp groups are private groups - only members of the groups can see who is in the groups and what they post. People applying to join the PSA Facebook page must be approved by the PSA through Facebook group administrators and are asked three questions prior to joining.

Permitted members

The PSA Facebook page is only intended for members of the PSA, in this case the parents and staff of Plaxtol Primary School. This is regulated through it being a closed group. Members need to gain permission to join from the PSA Facebook group administrators.

PSA related WhatsApp groups are intended for parents and carers of children at Plaxtol School (often a relevant class); and members should leave when their child leaves Plaxtol School or moves to a different class.

The PSA does not want to encourage inappropriate use of social media by children. No application to join our Facebook group or PSA related WhatsApp groups will be accepted by anyone aged less than 13 years. Pupils at the school are not usually regarded as PSA members.

How this is used by our association

The PSA uses its Facebook group exclusively for the running of the association. It is used to communicate with members, promote events or elements of events, to recruit volunteers to support the PSA's activities, thank local supporters and canvass members' views.

PSA related WhatsApp groups are intended to facilitate the sharing of information between the PSA and parents and carers, e.g. upcoming fundraising events; requests for volunteers; reminders for the coming week.

Usage that is not permitted

The PSA Facebook group and PSA related WhatsApp groups do not allow any personal correspondence between members; are not intended for discussing any aspect of the school other than PSA related activities; and should not be used to promote any business other than where this is done for the benefit of the PSA and with its permission. Inappropriate posts, including any derogatory comment, can and will be removed by the administrators and the PSA retains the right to ban any user who continues to make inappropriate use of the group.

Photographs

The PSA Facebook group and PSA related WhatsApp groups allow members to post photographs. However, it is explicitly assumed that anyone posting a photograph will own the rights to the image and will have the permission of anyone featured to do so. The PSA accepts no responsibility regarding ownership or permissions for any photographs posted by members of the group. Posting photographs of children is discouraged.

Application of this policy

By using the PSA Facebook group and PSA related WhatsApp groups, users are accepting the terms of this policy. If anyone does not agree with any of the terms, they should remove themselves as a member of the group.

Availability of this policy

This policy is publicly available through the website of the PSA (www.plaxtol.kent.sch.uk/psa/), and is referenced as part of the information stated on the PSA Facebook group pages.