



**ST THOMAS
MORE**
VC ACADEMY

30th March 2022

Social Media Websites

Dear Parents and Carers

Social media websites are being used increasingly to fuel campaigns and complaints against schools, headteachers, school staff and in some cases other parents and pupils.

St Thomas More considers the use of social media websites being used in this way as unacceptable and not in the best interests of the children or the whole school community. Any concerns you may have should be made through the appropriate channels by speaking directly to the class teacher, a member of the senior leadership team or the head of school so that they can be dealt with fairly, appropriately and effectively for all concerned.

In the event that any pupil or parent/carer of a child/ren being educated at St Thomas More is found to be posting libelous or defamatory comments on Facebook or other social network sites, they will be reported to the appropriate 'report abuse' section of the network site. All social network sites have clear rules about the content which can be posted on their site and they provide robust mechanisms to report content or activity which breaches this. The school will also expect that any parent/carer or pupil removes such comments immediately. The police may also be informed.

In serious cases the school will also consider its legal options to deal with any such misuse of social networking and other sites. Additionally, and perhaps more importantly, is the issue of cyber bullying and the use by any member of the school community to publicly humiliate another by inappropriate social network entries. Once written and posted it is difficult to undo and causes emotional harm to those that read negative comments. Instead, we ask that you follow the above procedure and raise any issues or concerns that you may have with the school.

Thank you for your continued support,

Mr G Shaw
Head of School

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