



St Peter at Gowts Church of England Primary School

Policy	Twitter
Date adopted	September 2015
Date reviewed	December 2018

Rationale

The rationale of this policy is to explain acceptable use of Twitter relating to the St Peter at Gowts CE Primary School handle [@StPeteratGowts](#) and staff accounts [@\(staffname\)spag](#) for staff, children, parents and governors. This policy should be read in line with the schools' eSafety policy.

Aims

This policy aims to explain the purpose of Twitter in our school and the benefits that will arise from its proper use, and also avoid any potential pitfalls this technology.

What is Twitter?

Twitter is used primarily as a method of communication made up of 140 characters called a Tweet. Tweets tend to reference people, places, and/or activities to which the said referee can respond. Tweepers either directly reference another person or broadcast information to which others can reply and respond. Twitter users are able to follow or be followed. To follow somebody/thing ensures that all of their activity and comments appear in the follower's news feed. The obvious benefit of having followers is that the information you broadcast is instantly distributed into their news feed. Users can also private message each other when they don't want conversations to appear. [@StPeteratGowts](#) or any staff member will not enter into private discussions with others.

What is the primary purpose of [@StPeteratGowts](#) and staff Twitter accounts?

All accounts will be used principally to be followed by staff, parents and other professionals in order to advertise the excellent work by staff, children, parents and governors. In the whole school feed there will be information about trips, visitors and upcoming events that are happening. This will not include 'new' information. It will serve as a really useful reminder about special events in school, for example: meetings, dressing up days and news and events etc. In the individual class Twitter feeds each teacher will be able to communicate and share learning with the children, parents and grandparents in their class. The feed will include photos, videos and links to help extend learning beyond the classroom. Photos will be added to show what we have been up to but no surnames will be mentioned. We will tweet about special events, the curriculum we are covering and also send you links to particular resources we have used in class.

Who controls content for [@StPeteratGowts](#) and staff accounts?

The uploading of content for [@StPeteratGowts](#) is the responsibility of the Head Teacher. All staff Twitter accounts will be controlled by the named teacher on the account. They alone will be responsible for password protection and uploading of content. The ICT Lead will regularly monitor all Twitter accounts linked to the school.

Who can follow [@StPeteratGowts](#) and staff accounts?

The school handle [@StPeteratGowts](#) is public and can be followed by anyone. Staff accounts are private and can only be followed by those who have sent a follower request. Staff will only accept follower requests from known members of the school community. Any requests from any young person under the age of 13 will not be accepted. We do encourage parents to create a Twitter account and follow staff across school- not just your child's class teacher. Teachers will be Tweeting lots of bits and pieces, which may not always be directly linked to their class. At this moment in time, [@StPeteratGowts](#) will not block any followers who request to follow the school. The school and staff retains the right to block any followers who post content that is deemed to be inappropriate (see below).

Can pupils have a Twitter account?

No. Twitter accounts should not be opened by any young person under the age of 13.

Who will [@StPeteratGowts](#) follow and staff accounts?

In order to protect itself from inappropriate content being distributed into its news feed, [@StPeteratGowts](#) and all staff will not actively seek to follow other users. However, exceptions may be made where following an @ handle has obvious benefits to the school- for example another school or educational professional. Once again, these will be decided on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the SLT and ICT Leader.

By following the school and class feeds, followers are agreeing to adhere to the following rules:

- Users should not use children's names in any comments they wish to make.
- Users should only write comments that portray the school in a positive light (come and talk to us if there's a problem!).
- Failure to comply with these rules will result the user in being blocked.

What information will be shared relating to individual pupils at the school?

- Photographs (not named)
- Work produced by pupils
- [@StPeteratGowts](#) and staff accounts will only post an individual child's forename (not associated with a photo)
- Individual achievements of pupils, both in and out of school (with consent from parent/carer regarding our of school activities)

Do parents/carers have to provide consent for information relating to their child to be published by [@StPeteratGowts](#) and staff Twitter accounts?

The school will use consent provided under parental consent form and/or admission form, which they complete when enrolling their child at the school. Parents/carers who have specific concerns about information relating to their child being posted on [@StPeteratGowts](#) or staff Twitter accounts should address these in writing to the Headteacher.

What is inappropriate content and referencing and how will it be dealt with?

[@StPeteratGowts](#) and all staff Twitter accounts welcome any referencing, mentions, or interactions that position the school in a positive light only. Therefore, we deem any of the following as inappropriate:

- Offensive language or remarks aimed at the school, its staff, pupils, parents, governors or others affiliated with the school;
- Unsuitable images or content posted into its feed;
- Unsuitable images or content finding its way from another's account into the [@StPeteratGowts](#) or staff Twitter feeds.
- Images or text that infringe upon copyright;
- Comments that aim to undermine the school, its staff, pupils, parents, governors or others affiliated with the school.

Any inappropriate content will be deleted and its users will be removed, blocked, and, depending on the nature of the comment, reported to Twitter. Furthermore, incidents of a more serious nature may be reported to the appropriate authority.

Use of handheld devices

Staff in school will access Twitter on their school computers and iPads. This will include the taking of photos and posting of Tweets. There may be occasions when staff will use their mobile phone to take photos and upload them to Twitter and post Tweets. The school deems this as appropriate in line with the staff acceptable use policies. Any staff member using their mobile phone in school is responsible for ensuring the photos taken are deleted after being uploaded to Twitter. The Twitter app can be downloaded and used by staff on personal and school devices. Each staff member is responsible for ensuring the device the app is downloaded onto is password protected.