

## Social Media Policy

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### NQS

QA4	4.2.2	Professional standards - Professional standards guide practice, interactions and relationships.
QA5	5.1.2	Dignity and rights of the Child - The dignity and rights of every child are maintained.
QA6	6.1.2	Parent views are respected - The expertise, culture, values and beliefs of families are respected and families share in decision-making about their child's learning and wellbeing
QA7	7.1.2	Management systems - Systems are in place to manage risk and enable the effective management and operation of a quality service.

### National Regulations

Regs	181	Confidentiality of records kept by approved provider
	181-184	Confidentiality and storage of records

### Aim

To ensure that our service, children, educators or families are not compromised on social media, and that social media usage complies with the principles set out in our Code of Conduct.

### Related Policies

- Educator and Management Policy
- Privacy and Confidentiality Policy
- Technology Usage Policy

### Implementation

A social networking website can be defined as a website used to socialise or communicate. These include but are not limited to Facebook, MySpace and Twitter (including usage on any device such as the internet, mobile telephone or tablet).

### **Personal Social Media Accounts**

While personal social media settings can restrict those who are able to access accounts, social networking sites are by their nature a public form of communication. There is always the potential that personal accounts can be accessed by the public or by “friends of friends” of whom we may have been previously unaware. It is therefore extremely important not to post information about the Service, children or families on personal social media accounts.

In relation to their personal social media accounts, the Approved Provider, Nominated Supervisor, educators, staff members and volunteers will not:

- access their social media accounts on any device while educating and caring for children.
- post any information about what happens at the Service.
- post any photos taken at the service or on an excursion. If this occurs families will be contacted immediately. If possible, the social networking website will be contacted to delete the photos.
- post any material that is offensive, defamatory, threatening, harassing, bullying, discriminatory or otherwise unlawful.
- post any material that could bring their professional standing into disrepute.
- post any material that could damage the employment relationship, the employer’s/Service’s reputation or commercial interests, or bring the employer/Service into disrepute.
- pose as a representative of the employer or express views on behalf of the employer.
- use the service logo or email without permission.
- disclose confidential, private or sensitive information.
- publicise workplace disputes.
- Befriend any high school or primary children on Facebook or Instagram.

Educators, staff and volunteers will not use their personal camera or phones to take photos or video while at the service, unless written permission for this has been given.

The Approved Provider or Nominated Supervisor will:

- use our Grievance Guidelines to investigate any circumstances where an employee or volunteer brings their professional standing into disrepute by posting information on their personal social media account that is offensive, defamatory, threatening, harassing, bullying, discriminatory or otherwise unlawful. A possible outcome of the investigation for employees is termination of employment.
- use our Grievance Guidelines to investigate any circumstances where an employee or volunteer damages the reputation or commercial interests of the Service/employer through material posted on their personal social media account, including material that is confidential, private or sensitive. A possible outcome of the investigation for employees is termination of employment.

- use our Grievance Guidelines to investigate any instance where someone working at the Service is defamed, bullied or harassed on social media by a family or community member connected to the Service. Families will not defame, harass or bully any person working at the Service through social media and may face possible termination of their child's place at our service if this occurs.
- contact the police and other relevant authorities if a person working at the Service breaks the law in relation to social media eg through defamation or bullying.

### **Service Social Media Account**

Our Service has a social media account to communicate and share information with our Service families and community.

The Approved Provider or Nominated Supervisor will:

- obtain authorisation from a child's parents before posting any photos of their child on-line.
- obtain families' consent to what information will be posted on-line, and how it will be shared.
- ensure personal information about families and children is not posted on-line, including information that could identify them eg address.
- set high privacy or security settings on the account and consider whether to restrict access eg through the establishment of a group account where families are invited to join.
- regularly change passwords to the account.
- activate password protected screen savers on all computers at the Service and ensure all social media users at the Service always log off before leaving.
- administer the social media page to maintain strict control of the information that is added.
- manage our Service's social media account.
- regularly scan online content related to the Service.

## **Sources**

**National Quality Standard  
Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011**

## **Review**

The policy will be reviewed annually by:

- Management
- Employees



- Families
- Interested Parties

• **Last reviewed: 25<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

**Date for next review: 25<sup>th</sup> March 2025**