

All Saints School Blogging Policy and Rules – January 2020

Aims and Objectives

Whilst blogging has been around for 10+ years, more and more schools are now giving their pupils a voice and an audience through blogging. These are mainly in the form of class blogs but can also be in the form of project blogs or individual pupil blogs.

This policy will outline the safe management of setting up and running a blogging platform.

A successful blog can:

- Safely give students a wider audience for their learning
- Encourage reluctant learners to participate and succeed
- Allow students to receive quality feedback safely from many different people
- Allow students to peer assess each other's learning
- Encourage parental engagement
- Promote students' learning across the globe

E-Safety

Blogging involves pupils working on a dedicated blog site whilst in school and also at home. To be able to post, pupils need to log into the blog either using an individual sign in or a class sign in. The advantages of individual sign in is that this gives more ownership to each pupil. Most blog platforms allow accounts to have different permissions. Contributor is the lowest level that allows a user to post. A contributor can submit a post for review, however, this will need to be authorised by the admin before it appears on the blog. The 'Contributor' permission level is recommended for Primary School. Any other permission level above that of 'Contributor' will allow posts to be viewable as soon as the pupil clicks 'Submit'. By giving the children the role of 'Contributor' the school is maintaining a 'gatekeeper' at all times between anything posted on the blog by a pupil or a guest and this being visible on the blog to the public.

The following is to be strictly adhered to:

- Permission slips (via the school photographic policy) must be consulted before any image or video of any child is uploaded, these will be completed on a yearly basis
- There is to be no identification of students using first name and surname; first name only is to be used, which will not be linked to a specific image.
- Where services are "comment enabled", comments are to be set to "moderated" this means that any post or comment will be read and approved by a teacher at the school before it is posted on any school blogs.

Incidents - Any e-safety incident is to be brought to the immediate attention of the Blog moderator/admin or the head teacher. They will take the appropriate action to deal with the incident.

Training and Curriculum - E-safety for students is embedded into the curriculum; whenever ICT is used in the school, staff will ensure that there are positive messages about the safe use of technology and risks as part of the student's learning.

Each pupil has a unique log in and has been told to keep this private. If a pupil or parent thinks their log in needs changing, school staff should be contacted to arrange this

Blog Rules

Using a blog safely is the most important thing about being a blogger. The following rules, if followed, will minimise any risks and will ensure that you will stay safe whilst blogging. The blog rules are explained clearly to each class during launch and are displayed in the classes. Teachers will remind the children about e-safety and blogging rules when they are blogging.

Don'ts:

1. Never give away any personal information about your location or identity.
2. Don't post pictures of yourself or anyone else you know without specific permission from your teacher or parents.
3. Never give out your log in details to anyone.
4. Don't use text language in your posts

Do's:

1. Post about whatever you like. An admin will decide if it should be allowed onto the blog.
2. If you receive a comment, it is polite to respond, say thank you and reply to a question if they have left one.
3. Comment on other people's posts too. Blogging is about commenting and posting!
4. If your post doesn't appear straight away, your teacher might be busy, do be patient.
5. Try to post about things that your audience would like to read.
6. If you see anything that shouldn't be on your screen, do tell your teacher or parents immediately.
7. Do visit other class blogs regularly to read and comment. This helps people come back to your blog.
8. Try to show off your best work/writing whilst blogging and use the tips people suggest to you to improve.
9. Our Blogs are public spaces, with other people looking at our work, so always be proud of what you've written or commented.
10. Always be polite and show respect – don't post anything that could hurt anyone. Be positive if you are going to comment and always remember that the blog is an extension of our school that the rest of the world is able to see.