
Social Networking Tips For Teachers

¹Mrs. Anju Chauhan

¹Research Scholar MJPRU Bareilly, Govt. Raza College Rampur Uttar Pradesh

Abstract

Today, social networking of one kind or another is used by almost everyone with access to the internet. Whether it's teachers, students or parents, the way we communicate with each other has changed so much within the last decade. But with the growing use of Facebook and Twitter, teachers who maintain profiles on these websites face difficult dilemmas. It's likely that you are asking yourself numerous questions. What should I do if I get a friend request from a student? Do I allow my pupils to follow my Twitter feed? While social networking has been used successfully by some schools for educational purposes, the Teaching Council issued advice for teachers about their personal use of such sites. Kids love social networking, but many teachers are leery of the risks of introducing the controversial technology into the classroom. Is it possible, they wonder, to engage students with the social networking tools they love, while keeping them safe from online dangers? Teachers should handle their social media accounts very carefully to prevent any dispute or controversy Absolutely, says Facebook chief security officer Joe Sullivan. Social networking can be both educational and safe -- *if* you follow some rules.

Keywords- Social Networking, controversial technology, security, Tips For Teachers.

Introduction

In a social media survey conducted by Career Teachers, 46% of participants didn't have or didn't know if they had a social media policy in their schools. Seeing as 40% of teachers actively use social media in the classroom, this is an issue that needs to be addressed for the safety of students, the safety of staff and the reputation of schools. In this guide you will find information, practical advice and resources on all aspects of social media so you and your students can get the most out of using it while remaining mindful of the potential risks.

The Positive Side Of Social Media-

Social connections- Having an active social life is vital for children and teenagers as it helps to develop communication skills and hones emotional intelligence. Social media plays a significant role in forming a supportive network of friends.

Self-expression- Finding an outlet for self-expression can be difficult at any age, but the subsequent frustrations of this are felt most acutely by students. Social media is a great way for children to show their personality as well as gain a sense of belonging as part of a larger community.

Education- Social media is a great way to exchange information, ideas and knowledge with friends, family, peers and like-minded individuals. Current events are often discovered and discussed in this medium, helping students to consider and form opinions on a range of complex issues.

New skills- It is without a doubt that the future is predominantly digital. More and more careers will require online skills and it is therefore advantageous for younger generations to know how it works and be able to spot the potential trends.

Cyberbullying-

When an individual is tormented, threatened, harassed, humiliated, embarrassed or otherwise targeted by another individual or group of individuals using the internet, interactive and digital technologies or mobile phones.

Why does it happen? -Anger, revenge, frustration, entertainment, boredom, exploring opportunities, to get a reaction, jealousy, social power play... there is never a single reason for it. Some students even do it by accident or believe they are righting a wrong, which is why it is important to provide a detailed definition of cyberbullying in the classroom. Never assume your students are aware of the consequences of their actions.

How can I spot it?- The victim • Shyness/disengagement • Depression • Agitation/aggression • Anxiousness • Avoiding computer/mobile • Weight loss/appears tired • Self-harm or attempt/threaten suicide • Friendship changes • Truancy • Misbehaviour • Drop in grades

The bully- • Sudden disuse of computer/ mobile when approached • Nervousness or jumpiness when using computer/mobile • Secretive when using computer/ mobile • Excessive use of computer/ mobile • Aggression when without access to computer/mobile

How do I prevent it?- • Educate yourself on popular social media networks • Educate your students on what constitutes as cyberbullying and how to respond to it • Never dismiss or trivialise the importance of social media for your students • Learn your school's cyberbullying policy and request changes if necessary • Keep an eye out for behavioural changes • Discuss online privacy, safety and appropriateness with your students.

What do I do if there is cyberbullying in my class? Whether a pupil, you or another member of staff are affected by cyberbullying, never respond directly to the perpetrator. Do not approach them online or in person. Immediately report it to your school's point of contact for safeguarding and/or the Head of Year/member of SLT with responsibility for behaviour. Your school should have a range of policies and procedures set in place for you to refer to. Accumulate evidence by taking screen shots, recording how frequent the abuse occurs and printing out everything you feel to be relevant in order to establish a case.

Content That May Harm Your Carrier-

By You-

- Inappropriate language or poor grammar
- Misleading, fraudulent or offensive information about you/ others
- Discussing students or parents
- Inappropriate or personal Publishing content without consent
- Content that compromises security
- Inappropriate or personal
- Publishing content without consent

- Redistributing content without copyright or license
- Joining groups that are defamatory, insulting or offensive
- Joining groups that your pupils have joined but are not associated with the school
- Joining radical groups

By others associated with you

- Students or parents discussing your work
- Quoting something you said in confidence
- Inappropriate language on your profile
- Inappropriate tagging
- Posting inappropriate content on your profile
- Doctored content about you
- Posting inappropriate content on your profile
- Discussions of you being a member of an inappropriate group
- People inviting you to join inappropriate groups

By others pretending to be you

- Hackers using your profile to post inappropriate content
- Fake accounts pretending to be you
- Inappropriate tagging
- Mistaken identity
- Someone pretending to be you in a group
- Suggestions you are a member of an inappropriate group

The examples above are of online situations that could prove detrimental to your career and professional reputation should they occur. Prevention is better than cure in all of these cases, but if something does happen speak with the appropriate points of contact within your school for advice before you act.

Getting Started With Social Media-

It's important to start with a strong understanding of the social media ecosystem. That means getting acclimated with the main social media channels most often used by teachers and students today. To do that, browse Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Pinterest, and yes, even [Snapchat](#).

- **Learn the basics.** Check out the guides for creating an account on each platform: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), and [Pinterest](#). On some social media channels, like Facebook and Twitter, have groups and chats devoted to teacher community and professional learning. We also recommend reading the platform's community or user guidelines to understand what kinds of activities are and aren't permissible.
- **Understand privacy rules.** "HIPAA and FERPA are a must," shares Belinda from [BVG SLP](#). Consult your district's specific regulations and rules about social media and student privacy before you start. You should also familiarize yourself with each platform's privacy policies, which will lay out the data they collect about you and

your students, as well as how it's used and shared. Understanding what tools each platform provides to ensure compliance with your district's social media policies and applicable laws is also important. Finally, It's important to ask for parent and family input too. If you're not so sure about traditional social media options, there are communication platforms aimed directly at parents and families, like Remind.

- **Your privacy is important too.** You may already have personal social media accounts, but you may not want to use them in the classroom. Instead, you may want to set your personal accounts to "private" and create new accounts specifically for classroom use.
- **Don't forget to find your own community.** Whether or not you'll be using social media with your students, it can still be a great tool just for you. Use hashtags to find educator communities and follow accounts that align with your interests and goals. Get inspired by what your friends and public figures are doing and posting on social media. Educational companies (like TpT) also usually have a robust social media presence and post often.

Social Networking Tips For Teachers-

Create a Friend List: If you're a teacher, you can create a Friend List called "Students" and adjust your privacy settings to control exactly what your students will see. For example, you might allow students to see your basic profile information, but not your tagged photos or wall posts.

Use Facebook Groups for Engagement: You can create a Facebook Group for a course you're teaching or a specific class project, and invite all your students to join the group. That will provide a way for students and educators to discuss relevant topics on a platform students love. There also is a Discussion Board where students can share their thoughts.

Share Rich Content: Use the Wall on your Facebook Group page to share rich content, such as news clips, interesting articles, Web sites, videos, and so on. Invite students to do the same.

Discuss Online Safety: Teach students about appropriate online behavior, including keeping passwords private, never talking to strangers online, and treating others respectfully.

Know Your Resources: Get up-to-the-minute, dynamic content especially for teachers at the [Facebook in Education](#) page, and check out [safety advice for teachers](#).

Check Your School's Social Networking Policy: As an educator, you should make sure you're in compliance with your school's policies before opening a Facebook account. Additionally, it's always a good idea to notify parents and receive their permission before asking students to join Facebook. Explain to parents exactly how the tool will be used in the classroom -- and make sure all students are older than 13.

Student Feedback: Ask students -- the digital natives -- if they have any creative ideas about ways in which Facebook can enrich their learning experience, both in the classroom and beyond.

Be a Safe Harbor: Make sure students know they can come to you with questions or concerns, or to discuss what to do in tricky situations they encounter online.

Suggestions For A Teachers If-

Students send a friend request?- Never accept friend requests from students on your personal social media accounts as it will expose you to potentially risky situations. No matter your intentions, it is better not to get involved.

Parents send me a friend request?- This depends on your school's policy, but it is best practice to decline any friend requests from parents on personal social media accounts. Again, it will expose you to potentially risky situations.

Find inappropriate content on social networking sites about pupils?- Immediately report it to the school's point of contact for safeguarding and/or the Head of Year/ member of SLT with responsibility for behaviour. Your school should have a range of policies and procedures set in place for you to refer to.

People I know post inappropriate content about me online?- Contact whoever has posted the content and ask them to remove it. If you have been tagged, untag yourself and ensure your profile is set to private. Some social media networks allow you to report content to be taken down by the website admin as a last resort.

A pupil or parent is cyberbullying me?- Accumulate evidence by saving and printing all communication and take it to the appropriate points of contact within your school. Never respond. If necessary you can seek additional support and advice from your union/professional association, the Teacher Support Network or the Professionals Online Safety Helpline.

To use social media in school for educational purposes?- Most networks have an age requirement of 13 and are blocked in schools. However, there is a lot of benefit to discussing and using social media in lessons, so if you feel it constructive approach the appropriate points of contact within your school for advice.

An Index Of Most Popular Social Media Networks And Apps-

Ask.fm – a public question and answer format

Facebook – network for friends to share life updates, news, interests, events, pictures and videos. Write on friends' 'walls', private message and livestream. Most popular site on the internet

Instagram – image and video content network. Users can take and post images and videos directly through the app with augmenting filters options. Private messaging and livestream features

Kik – instant messenger app. Connect with friends, groups and the wider world through a chat function Live.ly – livestreaming app

Musical.ly – performance and video sharing app of users lip syncing to famous or original songs

Omegle – allows text or video chats with random users

ooVoo – video chat app

Periscope- livestreaming app

Reddit – social news and entertainment site. Users submit content that can be voted up or down, which determines their order on newsfeeds

Snapchat – messaging app for sharing images, video clips, text and drawings. Content can only be viewed for up to 10 seconds within 24 hours of being sent before gone forever

Tumblr – network allowing different post formats i.e. quote, chat, video, photo and audio posts. Users can comment and reblog content

Twitch – livestreaming video platform known for video game-related content including e-sports tournaments, personal streams of individual players and gaming-related talk shows. Has chat feature

Twitter – network for users to post updates of 140 characters or less. Provides followers with life updates, links and general content. Private messaging, livestreaming and gifs also available

Whatsapp – instant messaging app to send messages, images, calls and videos to friends. Option of having one-to-one and group conversations in a closed environment

Whisper – anonymous confession app with images

Yik Yak – pseudo-anonymous discussion threads for users within a 5-mile radius

YouNow – livestreaming platform

YouTube – video content website. Users have channels and can post videos and livestream

Conclusion- Social media is designed to keep you engaged and returning for more. It's easy to slip into the habit of looking at social media every hour of the day. For some, it's the first thing they see in the morning and the last thing they see at night. In order to develop a healthy relationship with social media, try and restrict yourself to only looking at it at certain times of the day. Or, you could have one day of the week which is completely social media free. You don't have to cut it out altogether. As we've seen in this blog, it's a great tool to find advice and help from other teachers. But finding a balance is important so that your mental health and wellbeing is protected.

References-

1. UNESCO. (2008). ICT Competency Standards for Teachers. Retrieved June 4, 2010 from <http://cst.unesco-ci.org/sites/projects/cst/The%20Standards/ICT-CSTCompetency%20Standards%20Modules.pdf>
2. UNESCO (2007). Meta-survey on the Use of Technologies in Education, ICT Use In Education, National Policies, Strategies And Programmes. Retrieved May 10, 2007 from: www.unescobkk.org/fileadmin/user_upload/ict/Metasurvey/INDIA.PD
3. Sherer, P. D., Shea, T. P., & Kristensen, E. (2003). Online communities of practice: A catalyst for faculty development. *Innovative Higher Education*, 27, 183-19
4. Seels, B. B. & Richey, R. C. (1994). *Instructional technology: The definition and domains of the field*. Bloomington, IN: Association for Educational Communications and Technology.
5. <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/teachers-and-professionals/teaching-resources>
6. <https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullyingabuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/staying-safeonline>
7. <http://www.safetynetkids.org.uk/>
8. <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>
9. <http://www.kidsmart.org.uk/>