**Boroughmuir High School Social Media Policy**

Social media is an integral party of most young people’s daily lives. At Boroughmuir High School, we are keen to harness the opportunities that social media provides for effective and exciting learning and teaching.

However, there have been a number of cases of people getting themselves into trouble, in school or legally, for what they have posted on social media.

This Policy, designed along with Boroughmuir pupils, aims to inform pupils, parents and teachers about how to use social media in a way which is constructive, beneficial, and avoids any possibility of anyone getting themselves into trouble.

Most people use the internet and social media sensibly and safely. There are, however, some people who use social media for a whole range of inappropriate and/or illegal things. Protect yourself against these dangers by:

* Keeping your passwords, and personal details safe – never share these (especially online)
* Keep your privacy settings at an appropriate level
* Making sure you’re selective with your friends. Only ‘accept’ people whom you know and trust: *“Don’t accept randomers”.*

***ONCE SOMETHING IS POSTED ONLINE, IT IS VERY EASY TO LOSE CONTROL OF IT***

Social Media is designed to be public: this means that private conversations can very quickly get passed on. People can ‘Favourite’ or ‘Retweet’ a Tweet, take a screenshot of an online conversation, or ‘share’ Facebook statuses (to name just a few). At best, this could be embarrassing, but at worst you could end up in serious trouble in school, or even with the police.

Boroughmuir pupils have summed up what they believe are good rules to apply:-

***“Don’t say anything on Edmodo or any social media that you wouldn’t say in class”***

***“Don’t let the public see things you wouldn’t show your teacher or parents”***

***“Don’t post offensive statuses or pictures”***

Many teachers or other members of staff use social media in their private lives. It is a serious invasion of this privacy for pupils to seek out teachers’ profiles or pictures, and certainly to try to ‘add’ or ‘follow’ them: *‘Don’t find teachers’*.

**It is also an enormous invasion of teacher and staff privacy to film or photograph them without permission, and certainly to post it online.**

**Anything you say online can be dealt with in exactly the same way as something you say privately, in public, or write down on paper. So be careful what you say.**

 *‘****T****he* ***W****ay* ***I****s* ***T****o* ***T****weet* ***E****verything* ***R****esponsibly’*

*Anyone with internet can see your tweets, anyone with a phone can call the police’*

**Be safe, be sensible, and remember that with social media, people can see what you’re saying.**