



# Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Primary School



## Twitter Policy

Approved by Full Governing Body: 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2019

Signed  Chair of Governors.

To be reviewed: October 2022, or dependent on any legislative changes

### Safeguarding Statement:

'Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the safety and welfare of all children and expects all staff, parents governors and volunteers to share this commitment.'

### Our Vision

As a Catholic school that puts Christ at the centre, we are committed to encouraging everyone to 'Be the Best They Can Be'

### Values and Ethos

We believe that everyone is made in the image and likeness of God and we value the equality of all, reject discrimination of any kind, and welcome the diversity of different cultures.

### Rationale

The rationale of this policy is to explain acceptable use of Twitter relating to the Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Primary School handle @OLACoventry for staff, children, parents and governors. The policy will therefore aim to explain the purpose of Twitter at Our Lady and the benefits that will arise from its proper use, and also deal with any potential pitfalls from using a Social Media.

### Aims of Using Twitter

To quickly share and celebrate children's and school achievements, successes and updates.

To demonstrate safe and responsible use of social media

To promote Our Lady as a forward thinking and progressive school through our use of 21st Century technology

### What is Twitter?

Twitter is used primarily as a method of communication made up of 140 characters called a 'Tweet'. Tweets are an answer to the question "What are you doing?" Tweets tend to reference people, places, and/or activities to which the said referee can respond. Tweets 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 privately message each other when they do not want conversations to appear. Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Primary School will not enter into private discussions with others.

### **What is the primary purpose of the Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Primary School Twitter Page?**

The school Twitter page is principally followed by staff, parents and other professionals in order to advertise the excellent work by staff, children, parents and governors.

Similarly, it contains information detailing special events in school. The aim of this is to run alongside more traditional methods like sending home letters, and not to replace them.

### **Who controls content for Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Primary School?**

Teachers and Teaching Assistants are able to upload content which celebrates pupils' achievements and learning. The uploading of content for the twitter page is monitored by the Head teacher and Computing Lead.

Any pupils and staff that have not opted out of the photographic consent form, are able to appear on Our Lady's Twitter account. The opt-out policy will be reviewed half-termly. Pupils' names will not appear in tweets. Our Lady also advises parents not to use pupils' names when commenting to retweeting.

### **Who can follow Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Primary School?**

Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Primary School encourages teaching staff (at Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic and other schools), Governors and parents (of Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic children) to be followers. Due to the fact that Twitter do not aim their services to people under 13 years of age we will direct any followers who we believe to be under this age to the Twitter 'Policy Towards Children' (which stresses the importance to children of keeping personal information private). At Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Primary School we are fully committed to the safety of all children and the Head teacher is also the Safeguarding Lead.

The school Twitter account is a Public account. The Head teacher and Computing Lead will monitor the followers and block any who appear to not be school focused.

### **Who will Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Primary School follow?**

In order to protect itself from inappropriate content being distributed into its news feed, Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Primary School will only follow other users who have obvious benefits to the school (e.g. other educational establishments or organisations who work with children, local media). These will be decided on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the Head teacher and Computing Lead.

Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Primary School sees itself more as a distributor of information to those who follow it and not as a receiver of information.

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

Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Primary School welcomes any referencing, mentions, or interactions that share the success of the school community. Therefore, Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Primary School deems any of the following as inappropriate:

- Offensive language or remarks aimed at pupils, the school, its staff, 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 school Twitter feed.
- Images or text that infringe upon copyright;
- Comments that aim to undermine the pupils, the school, its staff, 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.

Further information can be found at the Twitter 'Help Centre' on: <https://support.twitter.com/>

This policy will be subject to an earlier revision should Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Primary School decide to allow children to use Twitter in school. At the moment, Twitter, unlike Facebook, has no age restriction and so its use is determined by the individual.