Newman Senior High School encourages the responsible use of social media. Our policies: Responsible use of ICT* and “Eliminating Harassment & Intimidation” can be found on our website www.newmanshs.wa.edu.au. As stated in our policies, students may use mobile phone during breaks. The advent of Smart phones/iPhones has seen students now be able to access apps such as Facebook and Twitter via their phones.

**What are we doing?**

The school takes seriously any inappropriate use of social media during school time. For this reason, the Community Police Officer is invited to the school to speak to students. Outlined within such visits are laws relating to, and possible consequences of inappropriate use. NSHS are thrilled to have such positive support from community groups to educate our students and ask that you join us in promoting sensible use of social media.

**How can you help?**

**Tips for talking to teens about Facebook**

**Talk to your teens about controlling their information.** Encourage them to be selective about what they share by customizing the recipients of their posts. Activities on Facebook, including the applications teens use and games they play, can be viewed by others.

**Use strict privacy settings.** Review all of the options on your privacy settings page. Facebook's default settings tend to keep information public until a use makes it private (although Facebook is a little stricter with minors' accounts. “Friends Only” is a good choice for most items, but you can be even more selective.

**Pre-approve tags.** Choose the settings that allow you to see everything you've been tagged in (including photos), before the tag links to your page.

**Use notification settings.** You can tell Facebook that you want to be notified of any activity performed on your name, including photo tags.

**Don't post your location.** Facebook lets users post their location on every post. Teens shouldn't do this for safety and privacy reasons. Teens can also “tag” their friends' location but you can prevent anyone from tagging your location in the How Tags Work section.

**Set rules about what's appropriate to post.** No sexy photos, no drinking photos, no photos of them doing something that could hurt them in the future. Teens also need to be thoughtful about their status updates, wall posts and comments on friends' posts. Remind them that once they post something, it's out of their hands.
If in doubt, take it out. Use the “Remove Post” button to take down risky posts.

Encourage teens to self-reflect before they self-reveal. Teens are very much in the moment and are likely to post something they didn't really mean. Work with them on curbing that impulse. Teach them to ask themselves why they’re posting something, who will read it, and whether it could be misunderstood or used against them later.

Watch out for ads. There are tons of ads on Facebook, and most major companies have profile pages. Marketers actively use Facebook to target advertising to your teen.

Create your own page. The best way to learn the ins and outs of Facebook is to create your own page. A great way to start talking to your teens about their Facebook experience is to ask them to help you create your own page.

“Friend” younger teens. If your kids are in middle school, if may be a sound policy to know what they're posting, since teens that age don't necessarily understand that they’re creating a digital footprint. Keep in mind that kids can block you from seeing things, so check in with them, too.

Talk to your high school-aged teens about whether they're comfortable letting you “friend” them. Many will be. But if you are your teen’s friend, don't fill her page with comments, and don't “friend” her friends. Many parents say Facebook is the only way they know what's going on in their teens’ life, so tread cautiously.

Choose your battles. You’ll see the good, the bad, and the truly unfathomable. If you don’t want your teens to unfriend you, don’t ask them about every transgression. Keep it general.

Be a model friend. Remember that your teens can see what you post, too. Model good behaviour for your teens and keep your own digital footprint clean.

Review Facebook’s Safety Centre. Several FAQ's, from general Safety to Safety for Teens, provide detailed information on how to use Facebook safely.

What is a “Twitter Troll”? Inappropriate use of social media has been highlighted by the case of TV personality Charlotte Dawson being hospitalised. A new phrase “twitter troll” has emerged. This is a person who writes an insult or controversial statement on another person’s social media page.