Dealing with Social Media

Newman Senior High School

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 any inappropriate use of social media during school time, seriously. As necessary, we invite police to speak to students about possible consequences of inappropriate use and appreciate positive support from community groups to educate our students. We ask that you join us in promoting responsible 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 social media communication. Activities on Facebook, Snapchat, Instagram, games and a range of applications can be captured and 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 user edits the privacy settings. “Friends Only” is a good choice for most items but you can be even more selective. Social media posts exist in circulation long after posting and often, control is no longer with the ‘poster’.

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 on Facebook.

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. Is it legal? Is it defamatory? Will it cause offence? Will it expose a person to legal action? 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, don’t post. 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 think through. 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.

“Friend” 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 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 in the newspaper 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.

For further information, please see the following websites:
www.cybersmart.gov.au
www.commonsensemedia.org