



Social Media & Online Safety Policy

Perrott Hill British School Prague *Effective Date: September 2025*

1. Aims and Objectives

Perrott Hill British School Prague is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all its pupils. In the digital age, this duty of care extends to the online world. Our policy is underpinned by our core values and the belief that the internet is a powerful resource which, when used responsibly, enhances learning and social connection.

Our specific aims are to:

- Protect the safety, privacy, and wellbeing of our students and staff.
 - Educate students to be critical, resilient, and respectful digital citizens.
 - Promote a positive "Digital Footprint" that will serve students well in their future university and career applications.
 - Partner with parents to ensure consistency between home and school regarding online boundaries.
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2. Rights and Responsibilities

Following the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, we recognize that every child has a right to access information (Article 17) and a right to protection from harm (Article 19). With these rights come responsibilities.

Student Expectations (The "5Rs" of Digital Citizenship)

We expect all students to demonstrate the following attributes online, just as they would in the classroom:

- **Respectfulness:** Treating others with kindness online. If you wouldn't say it to their face, do not type it.
 - **Responsibility:** protecting your own passwords and reporting concerning content immediately.
 - **Reasoning:** Thinking critically about what you see (Fake News) and what you share.
 - **Resilience:** Knowing how to disengage from online conflict and seek help if things go wrong.
 - **Restraint:** Knowing when to disconnect and prioritizing offline relationships.
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3. Age-Appropriate Usage Guidelines

Perrott Hill British School Prague strictly adheres to the legal age restrictions set by platform service providers and EU GDPR regulations. These age limits exist to protect children from content and data harvesting practices they are not emotionally ready to handle.

We strongly advise parents to enforce the following "Digital Milestones":

- Under 13 Years Old:
 - Prohibited: Students in Primary School (Years 1–6) should not have personal accounts on social media platforms (TikTok, Instagram, Snapchat, Discord).
 - Rationale: These platforms lack the safety filters required for younger children and expose them to algorithmic addiction and inappropriate content.
 - 13+ Years Old (Secondary School):
 - Permitted with Supervision: Students may access platforms like Instagram, TikTok, and Snapchat *if* they meet the age requirement (usually 13+).
 - Condition: Accounts should be set to "Private" (not Public/Creator) to ensure content is only visible to known friends and family.
 - 16+ Years Old (High School):
 - WhatsApp: Please note that under EU regulations, the minimum age for WhatsApp is 16. For younger students, we recommend safer alternatives managed by parents (e.g., Signal or iMessage).
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4. Cyberbullying and Online Conduct

The school operates a Zero Tolerance Policy regarding cyberbullying. Bullying that occurs online—even outside of school hours and on personal devices—impacts the school community and will be sanctioned as a school disciplinary matter.

Prohibited Behaviors include:

- "Roasting" or Exclusion: Creating groups specifically to exclude or mock another student.
- Doxing: Sharing a student's private information (address, phone number) without consent.
- Impersonation: Creating fake profiles of students or staff.
- Non-Consensual Imagery: Taking or sharing photos/videos of students or staff without their explicit verbal permission. This is a violation of personal privacy and GDPR.

Reporting Mechanisms: Students are encouraged to use the "Screenshot and Report" method. Do not reply to bullying messages; screenshot the evidence and bring it to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL).



5. Image Use and School Reputation

Our school reputation is a shared asset. Students and parents must ensure their online behavior reflects the values of Perrott Hill British School Prague.

- The School Crest: Students must not use the school logo or name in personal social media group names (e.g., "Perrott Hill Gossip") or in posts that bring the school into disrepute (e.g., filming inappropriate behavior in uniform).
 - Photography at Events: Parents are welcome to take photos of their *own* children at school events (Sports Day, Productions). However, these photos must not be posted to public social media accounts if they include other children, unless specific permission has been obtained from those children's parents.
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6. Partnership with Parents

We recognize that managing social media is one of the hardest challenges for modern parents. The school commits to supporting families by:

- Providing regular "Digital Parenting" workshops.
- Alerting parents to new trends or dangerous apps.

We ask parents to:

- Establish a "Tech Agreement": Co-sign a contract with your child regarding screen time and access.
 - Monitor: regularly check your child's device and social media interactions, especially in Years 7–9.
 - Model: Demonstrate healthy phone habits at home (e.g., no phones at the dinner table).
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7. Sanctions and Consequences

Breaches of this policy will be dealt with according to the School Behaviour Policy.

- Stage 1 (Minor Breach): Verbal warning and deletion of content. Educational conversation with the Form Tutor.
- Stage 2 (Repeated/Serious Breach): Confiscation of device (if on site), meeting with parents, and formal detention.



- Stage 3 (Gross Misconduct): Incidents involving severe harassment, hate speech, or illegal content may result in internal or external suspension and, where necessary, police involvement.

Acknowledgment This policy is to be read in conjunction with the Perrott Hill Acceptable Use Agreement (AUA), which must be signed by all students and parents at the start of the academic year.