

NORTH WEST CHILDRENS  
SUPPORT GROUP



**SOCIAL NETWORKING POLICY**

Approved 29/07/2012

Reviewed October 2016, February 2018, July 2019, May 2022

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## **AIMS OF THIS POLICY**

The purposes of this policy are

to safeguard the children in our care and to ensure that all volunteers across the organisation recognise the vulnerability of these children,

to protect the integrity of the NWCSG and to protect the integrity and reputation of trustees, committee members and volunteers,

to provide advice for volunteer helpers on the appropriate use of social media.

to provide guidelines for volunteer helpers on the appropriate ways to take and share photographs.

This policy has accompanying guidelines, any volunteer who does not follow these guidelines will jeopardise their future involvement with the NWCSG

## **SOCIAL NETWORKING GUIDELINES FOR HELPERS**

If you identify yourself as a member of NWCSG on Facebook or other social networking site you should act responsibly at all times to protect the reputation of the charity.

**Even if you do not identify yourself as a member of NWCSG be aware that your conduct online could still jeopardise your membership of the charity.**

Protect your own privacy. Think about what kinds of information you want to share and with whom and adjust your privacy settings. Remember that the more your personal life is exposed through social networking sites, the more likely it is that this could have a negative impact.

**Do not accept friend requests from children who are currently using our services.**

Think carefully before using social networks to build or continue friendships with parents. Remember if you receive a friendship request from a child or parent, Facebook allows you to ignore this request without the person being informed, avoiding the need to give unnecessary offence.

Do not discuss charity issues online, including conversations about children or complaints about other helpers. Even when anonymised, these are likely to be inappropriate.

**Never post pictures of children on social media, unless specifically asked to do so by a holiday leader, even if the child or their parents ask you to.**

You can take action if you find yourself the target of complaints or abuse on social networking sites. You can remove someone from your friend list and block them from interacting with you, and most sites will include mechanisms to report abusive activity and provide support for users who are subject to abuse by others.

Remember that everything you post online is public, even with the strictest privacy settings. Once something is online, it can be copied and redistributed, and it is easy to lose control of it. **Presume that everything you post online will be permanent and will be shared.**