

Social Media Guidance

'A staff member or volunteer's online presence and interactions become a reflection on the church, whether or not the church is specifically mentioned.'



Guidelines:

- Don't rush in - take advice if unsure.
- Consider the long term consequences of every post, assume all you say is permanent and public.
- Remember you are an ambassador of KBC.
- Don't hide behind anonymity
- Don't blur your public/private life boundaries - take personal conversations offline.
- Remember medium effects the message - without visual cues it's sometimes difficult to understand.
- Respect Confidentiality - obtain permission before posting.
- Be respectful to others - be honest with one another face to face and loyal to the church in public.

Under 18 Specifics:



- Do not accept "friend requests" from young people without due consideration. E.g. Do not accept friend requests from anyone under the recommended age for the social media platform.
- If it is appropriate in your own setting that your youth work includes an element of social media, where possible keep communications public and send messages to groups, rather than to individuals.
- Do not share any personal information with young people, or request or respond to any personal information from a child other than that which might be appropriate as part of your role.
- When using email/internet for communication with young people, it is advised that it should take place between the hours of 8am-9pm for 1st-3rd years, 8am-10pm for 4th-6th years.
- Gain parental permission before using video based platforms such as Zoom or FaceTime. These should only be used where a public face to face meeting isn't a viable option.
- Any private messages connected to KBC activity shall be recorded for safeguarding purposes.
- All users of social media must be above the minimum age limit i.e. 13 for Facebook, unless specific permission has been granted from parents/cares, an example of this would be for a Whatsapp Youth Housegroup chat.
- Workers should ensure their social media accounts do not display any sensitive information or inappropriate comments or images.



Photo Consent - Any photos posted online as KBC should:

- Endeavour children from being easily identified.
- Not include a Children's full name.
- Have gained permission before photos or video are taken, along with permission for how they are to be used and stored.
- Make sure live streaming must be clearly advertised and permission sought.

Staff and Volunteers do not have permission to post photos or videos that include children on their personal social media profiles.



Have any questions or concerns?

- Any safeguarding concerns/allegations arising from social media should be referred onto the safeguarding co-ordinator.

Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

Colossians 4:6