



# Mountain Ash Comprehensive School

## Ysgol Gyfun Aberpennar

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S J Evans BA, MA  
Headteacher

Our Ref: SE/ja

Date: 14<sup>th</sup> December 2017

Please ask for: Mrs S Evans

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s)

Re: **Misuse of Social Media**

As you are aware, Mountain Ash Comprehensive School operates a very successful and informative Twitter account which regularly celebrates the excellent work and activities at school.

Unfortunately, earlier this week, a number of pupils and parents/carers abused this account and other social media, swearing, making inappropriate comments about school and most seriously, abusing some members of staff. These comments have caused a great deal of distress to members of staff concerned and the wider school community. Not only did these actions bring the school into disrepute within the wider community, but they have resulted in complaints to the police and potentially serious consequences. The school takes the matter very seriously and is speaking to individuals concerned.

I am concerned that some of our pupils did not understand the serious consequences that can result from the misuse of social media, despite having attended a number of assembly talks around online safety and appropriate use of social media at school. Any post on social media can leave an "online history" which can be researched and uncovered in the future. For example many employers now "Google" people who are applying for jobs to see if they are suitable to work in their companies – a poor social media profile can ruin future job prospects.

Please support the school by speaking to your child/children about responsible use of social media and warning them of the serious consequences that can occur from abusing others online. We would also urge all parents/carers to set a good example by using social media appropriately.

Additionally, I would advise parent(s)/carer(s) to closely monitor your child's internet and social media usage to keep them safe and ensure that his/her online profile does not cause any concern or demonstrate any inappropriate comments or language which can cause offence.

I thank you, in anticipation of your support.

Yours sincerely

S J Evans  
Headteacher

