

POLICY FOR EDMODO

Key Messages

The use of Edmodo is encouraged within the school environment and at home to increase pupil/teacher, pupil/pupil and teacher/teacher relationships.

Edmodo must be used responsibly at all times.

Edmodo is an educational website and its sole use is the promotion of learning and teaching.

Purpose

The widespread use of social networking sites among young people requires that school managers, teachers, pupils, parents and carers take steps to ensure that virtual learning environments like Edmodo are used responsibly in school and at home. This policy is designed to ensure that potential issues involving Edmodo can be clearly identified and addressed, ensuring the benefits that Edmodo can provide (such as enhanced learning opportunities in a safe online environment) can continue to be enjoyed by our pupils

Rationale

The school accepts that social media is an integral part of a young person's life. Parents/carers allow their children to use Edmodo with the understanding that teachers and other school staff do their best to protect pupils from everyday risks involving personal security and safety.

Responsibility

- It is the responsibility of pupils who use Edmodo to be courteous and polite at all times whilst following the guidelines outlined in this document.
- Pupils are responsible for keeping their login details safe at all times. A teacher should be informed immediately if a learner believes their login security has been compromised.
- It is the responsibility of teachers to ensure that group codes are only shared with classes. Once all class members have joined a group, the group should be locked. Teacher notifications should be enabled at all times. Any suspect login should be dealt with immediately.

Best Practice

- Discuss the importance of responsible use of online publishing with pupils prior to issuing group codes. Set clear expectations from the outset, in conjunction with pupils. Sample codes of conducts can be found on the Edmodo Teacher Rollout Resources pages
- Group codes should not be posted publicly. Codes should be issued to pupils directly. Groups should be locked once all pupils have joined. (Groups can be unlocked and codes can be changed easily).
- Ensure notifications are set up and monitor carefully, especially in the first few weeks of using the site. Remind pupils of the purpose of the site. Text speech and non -topic discussions should be deleted. Temporarily revoke learner publishing privileges if a breach of the rules occurs.

Benefits

- Increased motivation as pupils are able to access resources and teachers in an online environment similar to that of their social networks.
- Ability of teachers to assign work and make available resources for pupils who miss lessons.
- Personal feedback and discussion with teacher and peers –pupils able to share work and discuss ideas together.
- Edmodo is a closed VLE - this type of online environment models responsible use of social networking sites for pupils
- Pupils and parents are able to access the Edmodo system on a range of platforms (Computer, Tablet and Phone) from any location and at any time.
- The use of Edmodo can increase communication between school and parents. Teachers remain in control of what is posted. Parents can keep a closer eye on their child's progress by viewing assignment grades and teacher feedback. Parents cannot view comments/replies from other pupils

Unacceptable Uses

Pupils, on their own or as part of a wider group, must not use Edmodo to engage in personal attacks, harass other persons, post private information about other persons, upload or share photos or objectionable images. This also includes using mobile devices to photograph or film anyone without their consent. Pupils using mobile devices irresponsibly against other pupils will face disciplinary action. [It should be noted that it is a criminal offence to use the Internet to menace, harass or offend another person. The school may consider it appropriate to involve the police.

Parent accounts

- Every learner has a unique parent code. This code is visible to the learner as soon as they join a group. Teachers using Edmodo should be made aware of this fact.
- Parent accounts give parents access to their child's grades, assignment due dates and teacher comments made to assigned work. Parents can add multiple children to their account. Pupils can share their code with more than one parent.
- Parent accounts do not give access to other pupils details.
- Teachers can send posts to all parents of a class. Parents cannot reply to teacher posts.

Sanctions

- Pupils who add inappropriate material to Edmodo will face having their account suspended and their parents contacted.
- Any pupils found posting inappropriate material should be referred in the usual way. Please take a screenshot of the comment and then delete the post.

Sanctions

Pupils who use Edmodo in this way will face disciplinary action from school until a parent/carer can attend school for a meeting. Where a law is broken, the incident will be reported to the police.

Pupils should be reminded that "Cyberbullying involves the use of information and communication technologies to support deliberate, repeated, and hostile behaviour by an individual or group, that is intended to harm others."

Edmodo Student Code of Conduct

- I will use one of the avatars included with Edmodo for my profile picture or use one that I have appropriate legal permission to use (i.e. in the public domain).
- I will use posts to discuss school-related content only.
- I will use a respectful tone of voice when posting. All school rules and consequences related to harassment apply.
- I will use appropriate grammar instead of texting language.
- I will not use my posts to promote personal websites or chat rooms.
- I will limit my use of sarcasm to avoid misinterpretations.
- I will not reveal any personal information on Edmodo. This includes telephone numbers, addresses, emails, etc.
- I will not post photos or videos showing myself or classmates without permission.

Student signature: _____

