

Blyth Academy – Media and Social Media Policy for Students

1. Purpose

This policy provides clear expectations for responsible and respectful use of social media by Blyth Academy students. It applies to all online behavior—both on and off campus—and includes platforms such as Instagram, TikTok, YouTube, X (Twitter), Facebook, Snapchat, and other digital or messaging applications. The goal is to ensure that students understand the risks, responsibilities, and digital citizenship principles associated with social media, while protecting their safety, privacy, and reputation and upholding the values of the school and the State of Qatar.

2. Guidelines for Responsible Online Conduct

A. Be Respectful

- Do not post or share anything that could harm, embarrass, or offend others.
- Avoid hate speech, discrimination, bullying, or harassment of any kind.
- Respect others' privacy—do not share personal information, photos, or videos of classmates, teachers, or staff without permission.
- Use appropriate and respectful language at all times.

B. Think Before You Post

- Remember: everything online is public and permanent.
- Consider how your posts may affect your future education, career, or reputation.
- Never share personal or sensitive information (e.g., location, phone number, family details).
- Avoid posting inappropriate or illegal content, or anything that violates school policies or laws of Qatar.
- Do not post defamatory, disrespectful, or misleading content about the school, its staff, or students.

C. Protect Your Online Identity

- Never share your passwords with anyone.
- Always log out from shared or public devices.
- Use strong, unique passwords for different accounts.
- Be cautious when accepting friend or follow requests from people you don't know.

D. Be Honest and Authentic

- Do not create fake profiles or impersonate others.
- Avoid spreading false or misleading information.
- Be transparent about any ads, sponsorships, or promotions you are involved in.

E. Social Media Use During School Hours

- Social media is not permitted during class time or any academic activity.
- Mobile phones or personal devices should only be used with teacher permission for learning purposes.
- Online activity must never interfere with academic responsibilities or attendance.

F. Follow School Policies

- All online behavior must align with the Blyth Academy Behavior and Discipline Policy and the MOEHE Code of Conduct.
- Any online activity that harms or threatens the safety, dignity, or reputation of others or the school community will result in disciplinary action.
- This includes actions taken off campus or on personal devices that impact the school's environment or reputation.

3. Disciplinary Consequences

Violations of this policy are considered behavioral misconduct and may result in:

- Verbal or written warning.
- Parental notification and meeting.
- Temporary suspension of device privileges.
- Internal or external suspension.
- Referral to the School Discipline Committee or MOEHE for serious offenses.

4. Digital Citizenship and Education

Blyth Academy is committed to educating students about safe and ethical online behavior through:

- Classroom lessons on digital citizenship and media literacy.
- Awareness campaigns during Cyber Safety Week and Character Education programs.
- Ongoing reminders about the importance of respect, integrity, and accountability online.

5. Policy Review

This policy is reviewed annually to ensure alignment with Qatar's Cybercrime Law, MOEHE regulations, and Blyth Academy Qatar's core values.