

# RHSA Social Media Policy

## *Summary*

It is the policy of the Association to maintain an environment that promotes ethical and responsible conduct in all online network activities. It shall be a violation of this policy and the Association's Constitution and Rules, for any member to engage in any activity that does not conform to the established purpose and general rules and policies.

This Policy makes no attempt to censor subject matter or debate on any RHSA (the Association) social media site, but does define the boundaries of "acceptable use" and "acceptable behaviours" when posting to any Association site.

## *Acceptable Use*

All use of social media sites must be consistent with the mission of the Association. The following constitutes acceptable use:

- Contact and discussions with other alumni members;
- Civil and polite exchanges of views;
- Administrative communications or activities that support and further the Association goals and objectives;
- Announcements of events that are in line with the objectives and mission of the Association.

## *Unacceptable Use*

Use of any RHSA site -

- for unauthorised commercial or for-profit purposes;
- for activities considered illegal or fraudulent under UK law or activities that may bring yourself as an Association member, or the Association into disrepute;
- to inaccurately imply endorsement, approval, or sponsorship by the Association;
- to post communications that can be confused with official communications of the Royal Hospital School (RHS) or the Association, RHS staff or Association elected GC members;
- to engage in anti-social behaviours.

## *Behaviours considered anti-social*

To post -

- anything which could be construed as unkind, vindictive or targeting any other person, by race, colour, sexual orientation or creed;
- threatening comments, bullying or harassing any other;
- derogatory, disparaging, defamatory, or discriminatory comments regarding the Royal Hospital School or the Association that may impact the reputation of the School or the Association;
- photographs or videos of current pupils or staff behaving inappropriately which may be linked to the Royal Hospital School or which include a school identifier such as crests, uniforms or premises;

- photographs or videos of current ex-pupils or ex-staff behaving inappropriately which may be linked to the Royal Hospital School or which include a school identifier such as crests, uniforms or premises.

All members of the RHSA community should be aware of the longevity of digital footprints and the negative impact cyberbullying can have on the both victim and perpetrator.

#### Enforcement

Offensive comments will be handled swiftly, with sensitivity and confidentially.

If a conversation becomes offensive individuals should report it to a site administrator or a member of the Association GC.

The Association GC will review activity that is alleged not to be in accordance with the acceptable use policy. The Association GC will deny further access to the site to those who engage in practices judged to be in violation of the acceptable use policy. In the first instance suspension shall be two months, but for persistent offenders the Association GC may deny access to any individual at any time. All offenders have the right to appeal.

Where violations of this policy may be unlawful, the matter may be referred to the appropriate legal authorities.

#### Implied Consent

Individuals using Association social media sites are responsible for the appropriate use of the site and by their use agree to comply with all applicable Association policies and regulations, with UK law and the laws of the countries from where they access any Association site.