

Gillespie Primary School



Twitter Policy
March 2021

Why is Gillespie joining Twitter?

At Gillespie, we are passionate about celebrating the exciting learning and development of our pupils with parents, carers and the wider world. We want to celebrate the vibrant, happy and successful learners that we have in our wonderful school. Through our Twitter account, we will share children's achievements across all aspects of the curriculum.

This policy will explain acceptable use of Twitter relating the Gillespie School twitter account: **@GillespieSchool**. The policy will explain the purpose of Twitter Gillespie and the benefits that will arise from its proper use.

What is Twitter?

Twitter is a social media tool that currently has no age restrictions for its use. Twitter is used to communicate thoughts and ideas within 240 characters, and usually references people, places and activities that tend to invite replies. Twitter accounts can follow other Twitter accounts to connect with each other on ideas, business and social aspects. Twitter users can limit who can retweet or reply to their messages. Users are able to Direct Message (DM) other users if they are following each other.

Aims of Using Twitter:

- To quickly share and celebrate children's achievements, successes and school updates.
- To demonstrate safe and responsible use of social media
- To encourage the use of new technology and communication platforms

Rules when Using Twitter:

- Our Senior Admin Officer will manage the school Twitter account. The Headteacher will check content.
- The school Twitter will not be used to engage with individual parents directly, however, important announcements and notices could be sent as part of general communication to parents. □ Professional staff accounts will belong to the staff. They will be solely responsible for their tweets. Tens of thousands of teachers in the UK are on Twitter, and this is what we at Gillespie are keen for our teachers to join. Similarly, it will also contain information detailing special events in school. The aim of this is to run alongside more traditional methods like sending text messages and letters, and not to replace it.
- The school Twitter account will only follow educationally linked accounts. No personal accounts, unless they are educationally linked, will be followed. For example a children's author.
- The school Twitter account will only use children's first names when referencing children.
- The school Twitter account will use Twitter to share positive messages about the school.
- The school Twitter account will post photos of children including their work and learning.
- The account may be used to share news and information during a school trip. A teacher will run the account on a school iPad that will be updated when Wi-Fi can be accessed.

Twitter's own safety rules can be read on https://about.twitter.com/en_us/safety.html

Who can follow @GillespieSchool

Anyone can follow the school's Twitter account. A regular check will take place to monitor recent followers. Any user following the school account that is deemed unsuitable or not adding any value to the school will be blocked.

This decision will be made on a case-by-case basis. Parents will be encouraged to follow the official school account to receive the information the school is posting on Twitter.

Dealing with misuse by followers

Comments that aim to undermine the school, its staff, parents, governors or others affiliated with the school. Any inappropriate content will be deleted and its users will be removed, blocked, and, depending on the nature of the comment, reported to Twitter.

Furthermore, incidents of a more serious nature may be reported to the appropriate authority.

Social Media Parent Consent Form

Parents/ Carers will be sent a 'Social Media Consent Form' electronically asking permission to post images of your child's work, name and photo online. This agreement will give consent for the duration of your child's time at Gillespie. If parents wish to withdraw their consent, they must let the school office know in writing.