
HUMAN RESOURCES

6000

Staff Use of Social Media Policy

6030

Rationale

The use of technology applications for teaching/learning continues to evolve and grow. There is growing use in today's society of social media as a method of communication. The use of the Internet and social media, despite best intentions, may cause teachers to forget their professional responsibilities and the unique position of trust and authority given to them by society. For educators, maintaining professional boundaries in all forms of communication is vital to maintaining public trust and appropriate professional relationships with students.

Definitions

Social Media: Social media involves the use of web based and mobile technology for instantaneous interactive dialogue for personal interaction, including the creation and exchange of information.

Policy

AFNORTH International School staff members shall know and respect proper professional boundaries with students in all forms of communication.

Guidelines

1. Teachers shall maintain a sense of professionalism at all times – in their personal and professional lives.
2. Electronic messages are not anonymous, they can be tracked, redirected and live forever on the internet.
3. Online identities and actions are visible to the public and can result in serious legal repercussions or embarrassment.
4. While the employing nation is responsible for consequences of professional disciplinary action, host nation authorities may also be involved.

Review

This policy will be reviewed in accordance with Policy 1020 Policy Development and Review.

Bibliography

Most of the information for Policy 6030 and Procedure 6030 is based on work done by the Ontario College of Teachers – www.oct.ca. (The Council of the Ontario College of Teachers Professional Advisory: Use of Electronic Communication and Social Media, February 23, 2011)

Cross Reference
Procedures 6030

Date Approved
8 November 2011

Legal Reference