

February 2024

## The Buzz ...

Dear Parents/Carers,

Most teens and many preteens use some form of social media and have a profile on a social networking site. They may well visit these sites every day.

There are plenty of good things about social media — but also has many risks and things children should avoid. They don't always make good choices when they post something online, and this can lead to problems.

### What's good about social media

Using social media children can, for instance: -

- Stay connected with their friends
- Share their interests and experiences
- Ask for advice and help
- Share their ideas



So, to give our children an introduction to social media, we will shortly be launching our very own social media platform called **The Buzz ...**

The intention of **The Buzz ...** is to be proactive, in giving the children a monitored platform where they can learn the skills of using social media, in a controlled environment. We will be able to educate our children about how to use this type of software in a positive, socially and emotionally beneficial way. As well as helping the children to understand how social media works, we believe that the use of this platform will further enhance the closeness our school community.

There has been a significant shift in focus in the Governments Statutory Guidance for Schools regarding Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSiE) and how to keep children safe online, we believe the roll out of this platform will benefit our curriculum and support our pupils as they progress towards their teenage years.

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 DE CURCI TRUST

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The Buzz ... is similar to Facebook, the children are able to create posts and share them with every user, share only with members of the 'Space' that they belong to, or just with their own custom 'Friendship' group. Posts can include images and short videos. There is a special 'tab' within each 'Space' where the children can ask and answer questions, there is also a 'one to one' messaging facility included in the platform, that we have decided not to use at this time. The children will be asked to read and accept The Buzz ... rules when they use it for the first time, you can read these towards the end of this letter. Any children who repeatedly break these rules will have their access to The Buzz ... suspended.

Initially, we will be showing the children how to use The Buzz ... using laptops in school and the platform will not be accessible externally. After this period we will make The Buzz ... available externally which means the children will be able to access on their own devices (phones, tablets etc) wherever they are.

The Buzz ... runs in a closed environment which means that only users that we have added are able to sign in and use the platform, it is not possible for others outside of our environment to register.

In order to address any occurrences of children inadvertently sharing their login details, or being otherwise compromised, The Buzz ... will send *you* an email when your child tries to sign into The Buzz ... on a their device (we add your email address to your child's profile during registration), the email will include a code that you will need to share with your child to allow them to sign in, this is valid for 45 days, after which your child will need to enter a new code that The Buzz ... will email to *you* when your child tries to sign in.

We hope the children will enjoy using The Buzz ... to share their knowledge, experiences, achievements etc, and ask/answer questions.

If you have any questions regarding The Buzz ... please get in touch via our website [HERE](#).

Yours sincerely

Mrs L Peterkin-Aldred  
Head of School

Mr G Burnett  
Network Manager





## The Buzz ... rules

1. Don't lie about yourself or others.
2. Don't post anything showing violence, or that might frighten people.
3. Don't post nude pictures of yourself or others, this is against the law.
4. Don't download and share anywhere else, content that you see on The Buzz...
5. Don't post links that lead to other social media platforms.
6. Don't bully anyone.
7. Don't use rude words or swear in any posts.
8. Report to an adult at school or an adult you trust at home, any post, comment or message that makes you, or you think may make others feel unhappy, afraid etc.
9. Don't pretend to be anyone else.
10. If you want to use someone's information that you have learnt from The Buzz..., ask them first.
11. If you want to mention someone who doesn't use The Buzz ... in a post, ask them first.
12. Don't share yours or anyone else's private or personal information, such as mobile phone number or address etc.
13. Keep your password secret and don't let anyone else log into your account.
14. Don't do anything illegal on The Buzz ... including taking part in scams.
15. Don't post anything that isn't true.
16. I know that my Class Teacher and Head of School will be able to access anything I post including any messages.
17. I know that if I repeatedly break any of these rules, my access to The Buzz ... may be suspended.
18. Don't use any type of software to try and get other peoples' information.
19. Don't upload viruses or do anything that might affect the way The Buzz ... works.
20. Don't use The Buzz ... to try to sell things.
21. Don't encourage or help anyone else to break these rules.

