

Social Media Policy: V2 February 2023

This policy will set out the use of social media throughout Gorse Hill Baptist Church. This includes on a Sunday morning, private and public groups.

Gorse Hill Baptist Church currently holds Twitter, YouTube, Tik Tok, Instagram and Facebook accounts.

The purposes of social media:

The purposes of social media to get Christ known in the community through the activities that the church is undertaking, Sunday Services or any other relevant posts. It can be used through public forums and private groups.

Public Groups:

The public groups are a space for the Church to share its activities, Sunday Services, encouragements to a wider audience. The public group has at least two administrators and the publication of live videos can only be done through the entering of passwords and only authorised people are aware of how this is done. If posts are displaying unacceptable behaviour, as described below, then the administrators must act as soon as they become aware in line with their role.

Private Groups:

The private groups are a space for people connected to the church to share encouraging messages, reminders of services, bible verses, thoughts for the day, requests for volunteering or other such things.

Any private groups must have at least two administrators who hold church membership and must be a regular attendee of the church and follow the role of the administrator description above.

Private Messages:

Private messages are only able to be responded to by administrators. The administrators must ensure they follow acceptable behaviour and sign off any messages with their names. If there are any concerns with private messages being received then it must be referred to the Deacon responsible for social media.

Role of the Deacon:

The role of the deacon responsible is to ensure that the Social Media accounts have the correct number of administrators and must be aware of who they are. The deacon must check that the administrators are still church members and active within the church community and has the overall responsibility to ensure what is published is in line with the Church's statement of faith and does not display any unacceptable behaviour.

Role of the administrators:

The role of the administrators is to ensure that people who request access to the group are connected to the church and removes post if there are unacceptable behaviour from users.

If any posts are removed, the administrator either needs to approach the person to explain why their behaviour is unacceptable or consider removing the person from the group to ensure the safety of the users at large. The administrators have the responsibility of reporting concerns to the Safeguarding team if there are any concerns immediately.

Unacceptable behaviour:

Unacceptable behaviour includes:

- Insulting or degrading language, including inappropriate banter, innuendo or malicious allegations
- Any form of physical violence or threats of physical violence
- Derogatory racist, sexist, ageist, or homophobic remarks
- comments relating to disability, perceived gender, religion, belief, or any other personal characteristic
- Swearing
- Bullying and harassment
- Under taking of any criminal activity, publication of any explicit material or emotionally distressing content
- Or any other types of behaviour that could be seen to distress or put safety of church users at risk.

If there are any safeguarding concerns relating to these posts then screen shots must be taken and sent immediately to the Safeguarding Team. The Safeguarding Team will then investigate in line with the overall Safeguarding Policy.

Social Media with individuals under age of 18:

This must be followed in accordance with the Safeguarding Policy section 5.8.