

CIR/18/2024-2025 Date: 1<sup>st</sup> August 2024

**Dear Parents** 

**Greetings from Amanora School!** 

The ever-growing presence of social media in our lives brings both exciting opportunities and potential challenges for our students. While social media can be a valuable tool for communication, creativity, and learning, it is important to be aware of its impact on young minds.

At Amanora School, we strive to create a safe and positive learning environment for all students. We integrate digital and cyber security awareness into our curriculum to equip students with the skills to navigate the online world responsibly. However, your role as parents and guardians is crucial in overseeing your ward's social media usage outside of school hours.

# Your Role in Your Child's Social Media Journey

As a parent, you play a vital role in shaping your child's experience on social media platforms like Facebook, Instagram, etc. Here are some key ways you can guide him/her towards safe and responsible online behavior:

- Equip your child with social media and media literacy skills. Teach them to be critical consumers of online content. Be aware of what they post and whom they interact with online.
- Collaborate with your child to establish clear guidelines for Instagram /Facebook use. This could
  include limitations on sharing personal information, using inappropriate language, or screen time
  restrictions. Establish healthy boundaries around Instagram use. Discuss the importance of staying
  safe online and agree on mutually acceptable time limits.
- Lead by example! Demonstrate responsible behavior on your own social media accounts.
   Encourage your child to treat others online with respect, avoiding negativity and spreading rumors.
- Consider setting your child's Instagram profile to private. Monitor their activity regularly and ensure appropriate privacy settings are enabled to safeguard them.
- Note that the new and revised age eligibility criteria to initiate these accounts is 13+ years.
   However, the children are still considered minor as per law and hence in case of any legal issue wrt irresponsible usage, the onus rests with the parents/guardians.

Do not forget to utilize the resources provided by Instagram for parents. These resources can offer valuable guidance and support. The guidelines provided by Instagram for parents is mentioned for your reference as **the below link**:

https://www.internetmatters.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/UK Instagram - parent and carer guide to instagram.pdf

#### School's Commitment to Social Media Safety

We are committed to promoting safe and responsible online behavior of our students. Our team actively manages our own social media channels and regularly conducts awareness sessions for students, drawing on the expertise of social media specialists.

### Student Engagement regarding a Specific Instagram Page

We have recently become aware of an Instagram page (name withheld) that appears to involve some of our students, potentially including your child. The content on this page has been identified as inappropriate and incongruous. We are concerned that multiple students may be contributing to this page, unarguably exposing themselves to risks and damaging the School's Reputation. The presence of the school name on the page further amplifies this concern.

# Addressing the Issue with Your Child

While we cannot confirm your child's involvement with this or any other specific page, we urge you to discuss this matter with them. Open communication is crucial to ensuring their safety online. It is pertinent to point that your child can also be involved in such pages and may be a regular user. Discuss your child's social media activity, including the types of platforms he/she uses and the content access and share.

# **School's Stance on the Matter**

We would like to state and confirm that in the event of any incident, mishap and / or accident (of any nature whether physical / mental) due to the said or any other page of Instagram, the school shall not be liable / responsible for the same in any manner whatsoever, which you may take note of.

Furthermore, in the event if the school is of the opinion (after complete diligence) that the said page is harming the name and reputation of the school in any manner, then in such an event we shall report the said page directly to cyber security who shall take cognizance in the matter and the school shall take appropriate action/s against all the students involved in managing and handling the said page.

You are requested to take this letter as a final call for all kind of information/s which are required to be informed to you regarding the matter of Instagram page (name withheld).

We are extremely hopeful that by working together and fostering open communication, you can empower your child to navigate the online world safely and responsibly. We appreciate your cooperation in addressing this matter. It is only through transparent collaboration, we can ensure a safe and positive online experience for all our students.

Warm regards,

Ms. Meera Nair Process Of Process