



Social media, text, direct text/media messaging and email policy

Social Media is a wonderful tool and one we want to use constructively and safely. On-Stage Now promotes the healthy and appropriate use of social media. It is important to be aware of the potential pitfalls and safeguarding issues that arise when posting content in relation to:

- Rehearsal information
- Cast lists
- Performance information
- Sharing of feedback/pointers/direction notes

We need all On-Stage Now performers and students and parents/guardians of On -Stage Now performers and students to be aware of this policy when sharing or posting content relating to the above from either personal or club accounts.

We also need to remind all players/parents/carers to refresh themselves with our updated Photography and Video policy. Here you will find a large crossover with regards to our safeguarding of all Academy members and personnel.

Common-sense approach: 'Could I say this face to face, or would I be happy to see my comments published in the newspaper? If you are unsure of the answer to these questions, or your answer is "no", then you should not be posting this on any social media or any direct messaging platform.'

Teachers', Directors', Producers' and Choreographers' use of Social Media, Texts and Emails

Contacting performers/students (under 18 years of age) by personal text or through social media is strictly forbidden. Staff & volunteers cannot private/direct message (PM or DM) anyone under 18 years old via email, text, Snapchat, Instagram, Messenger or social media platforms.

Messages should be directed to the parents AND the young person or via open forums with appropriate language & content.

Everyone involved with On-Stage Now is reminded that the Relevant Codes of Conduct (for parents, children and coaches) apply online and in text and email communications, just as they do in the “real world”.

See below for additional advice and best practice around social media use within the family:

Social Media can seem strange and even intimidating for people who did not “grow up” with it. Facebook, Twitter, texting, Messenger, and other platforms, as well as online gaming and personal emails are vast and complex. By following some simple guidelines, potential pitfalls can be avoided and Social Media can be safely used as a promotional tool and a means of communication for the club.

Guidance for Parents/ Carers on the use of Social Media, Texts, Snapchat, Instagram and Emails

Children today are growing up with the internet as part of their everyday lives, and that’s a good thing. It’s a great place for them to learn, to have fun and to chat to their friends. Of course, it’s important to make sure that they are safe whilst they do it.

Remember: it is against Facebook and Instagram’s rules for your child to have an account if they are under 13 years old. This is to prevent them from being exposed to potentially inappropriate content. You will find all you need to know about keeping young teens safe on Facebook on their official safety page for parents:

<http://www.facebook.com/safety/groups/parents/>.

Parents/Carers SHOULD

- Make sure the family computer is in a main living area and that the screen is positioned so that you can see what is going on.
- Be open so that the child can approach you if they are being bullied online or if they have been exposed to something that has made them upset or uncomfortable.
- Make sure you are aware of who your child has contact with online and via text.
- Be aware of On-Stage Now's expectations of teachers and social media.
- Talk to your children about using social media.
- Provide your mobile number/email address if requested, so that the Academy can contact you regarding your child’s rehearsals, lessons and performances.

The following may be useful

<http://www.google.co.uk/familysafety/advice.html>

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/Parentsold>

Guidance for Children and Young People on the use of Social Media, Texts and Emails

The internet is a great place to learn and have fun with your friends, and the best way to have fun is to make sure that you stay safe. You should think about the points below whenever you use the internet, or speak to people online or by text.

The following may be useful: <http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

If someone isn't your friend in real life, they are NOT your friend on the internet. Be careful when accepting friend requests.

Sometimes people on the internet are not who they say they are. If you are not 100% sure, don't risk it.

Remember to change your privacy settings so that only your friends can see information about you, your wall posts and your photos.

If someone is sending you messages or texts that you are worried about, you should tell your parents, an adult you trust, your teacher or our Principal. Our Principal (Mary Greco) can be contacted by email (mary@on-stagenow.com) or by phone (07957398469). Ask another adult to help locate her should you need her and not find her anywhere.

Remember any On-Stage Now representative is a professional, just like your school teachers. They should not be your friend on Facebook, and should not be texting or messaging you.

You can expect them to make arrangements for lessons, rehearsals and performances via your parents.

Bullying can happen online too – called cyber-bullying. If you, or someone you know, has had this happen to them you should tell an adult that you can trust.

Don't be afraid to tell someone if you have concerns.

Young People NEED to

Keep your photos and personal information private.

Conduct yourself in a respectful and courteous manner on social media as you would at home, in school or at On-Stage Now sessions.

Tell a professional or an adult that you trust if you are worried or concerned about online behaviour or unwanted contact/communication.

Young People SHOULD NOT

Send inappropriate text messages or post messages on social media that are offensive, nasty or derogatory in any way.

Accept any friend requests from people you don't know or you feel uncomfortable accepting.

Connect with, follow or message coaches of on social media platforms, snapchat and other messaging sites.

