



WEST LINKS JUNIOR GOLF CLUB

Social Media Policy

& Digital Communication Statement

West Links Junior Golf Club recognises the significant benefits of setting up and utilising social networking sites as this is one of the most direct forms of communication with children. There is also recognition that this method of communication poses a number of risks as social networking sites, chat rooms and instant messaging systems are increasingly being used by online predators to “groom” children. In addition, digital communication is also being used more and more by children as a means of bullying their peers.

For the purposes of this policy a child is recognised as someone under the age of 18 years. This policy outlines West Links Junior Golf Club’s commitment to ensure all adults working with children in golf adhere to best practice guidelines.

West Links Junior Golf Club will:

- Advise that adults do not communicate with children on a one-to-one basis by text, e-mail, instant messaging or through social networking sites, group messages shall always be recommended.
- Obtain parental consent from anyone under the age of 18 when communicating via text, e-mail, instant messaging or social networking sites.
- Highlight that coaches, staff, volunteers, parents and members should always behave responsibly and respectfully when posting content online.
- Advise that adults should not add or accept children as their “friend” on social networking sites when the primary reason for the relationship is golf.
- Ensure that anyone interacting with a child on behalf of West Links Junior Golf Club via social networking sites does not discuss any other topic than golf.
- Remind all those who are using social networking sites that these are restricted to people aged 13 years and over.

- Ensure that both children and adults are aware of the procedures for reporting any concerns they have relating to online materials. This will involve informing the club or governing bodies Safeguarding Officer in the first instance.

Review

This policy and these procedures will be regularly reviewed:

- In accordance with changes in legislation and guidance on digital communication or following any changes within West Links Junior Golf Club.
- Following any issue or concern raised about digital communication within West Links Junior Golf Club.
- In all other circumstances, at least every three years.