

Notre Dame

Student Social Media Contract 2020-21

In the digital age we live in, social media platforms are an unavoidable part of daily life for many. There are benefits to social media as they help people access information and build community. However, there are also risks and dangers – especially to our children – who have grown up in this online age.

Notre Dame respects the right of its students to use social media. However, it is important for Notre Dame students to understand the need to exercise care in setting appropriate boundaries between their personal and public online behavior and to understand that what may seem private in the digital world can often become public, even without knowledge or consent. Notre Dame students who use social media must remember that any information posted reflects on the entire Notre Dame community and, as such, is subject to the same behavioral standards set forth in the Family Handbook.

BEST PRACTICE FOR SOCIAL MEDIA USE:

For the purpose of these guidelines, social media means any form of electronic communication through which students share information, ideas, personal messages, and other content on platforms including but not limited to: Snapchat, Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, and Tumblr. These guidelines are intended to provide a framework for students to conduct themselves safely and responsibly in an online environment. As a Notre Dame student you should:

1. **Be Aware that Privacy Settings are NOT Foolproof.** Students are highly encouraged to use privacy settings on social media sites. However, students should be aware that privacy settings are not foolproof. It's best to assume that anything you post may potentially be seen by your school, your parents and strangers.
2. **Avoid Posting Confidential Information.** Be aware of the kind of information you are posting on social media sites. Posting information such as your date of birth, address, phone number, class schedule, social security number, bank account number, etc. is **NOT** recommended. Once such information is posted, it becomes the property of the social media site.
3. **Avoid Unprofessional Public Profiles.** Any information you put on social media sites is considered public information and may be viewed by members of the public. Be mindful of the image you create for yourself online. Potential, current and future employers as well as high school and college admissions recruiters may access the information you put on social media sites.
4. **Avoid Posting Illegal Activities.** Photos posted via social media become the property of the social media site. You may delete the photo from your profile but the photo remains on the social media site's

server. In addition, even if your profile is set to private, a friend can always download and save incriminating photos that third parties, such as the authorities, can use against you in the future.

5. **Avoid Bullying/Threats of Violence.** While Notre Dame students have a right to free speech, that right is **NOT** unlimited. Bullying is a serious problem and is not limited to student-to-student interactions. Vicious treatment and hateful words often lead to violence, suicide, depression, and discrimination. Notre Dame students should avoid the following:

- Derogatory language or remarks about classmates, teachers, etc.
- Demeaning statements about and/or threats to any third party; and
- Creating serious danger to the safety of another person or making a credible threat of serious physical or emotional injury to another person.

Notre Dame students should be aware that if their conduct is deemed inappropriate, such conduct may be subject to discipline, not only by school authorities, but also by law enforcement agencies.

6. **Avoid Lying, Cheating & Plagiarizing.** Again, all information posted on social media sites is considered public information. It may be viewed by third parties and used against you. It is best to assume that anything you post may be seen by your school, your parents and your peers.

Notre Dame students should be aware that their online actions have consequences. While Notre Dame does not monitor student social media accounts, it has the right to act on information provided by third parties (i.e. students, parents, & community members). Furthermore, every social media platform has an age minimum of 13 to have an account. If a student account is reported to the school below the age threshold, we will report the account to the social media platform for removal. Notre Dame also has a right to investigate students' social media sites in the event of allegations of inappropriate online conduct. Notre Dame has a right to discipline students for online conduct which is related to a school activity or attendance and is: 1) substantially or foreseeably disruptive to the school environment; 2) lewd, vulgar or offensive; and/or 3) advocating violence or illegal activity. In addition, students should be aware that, in certain circumstances, their online conduct may be subject to criminal investigation.

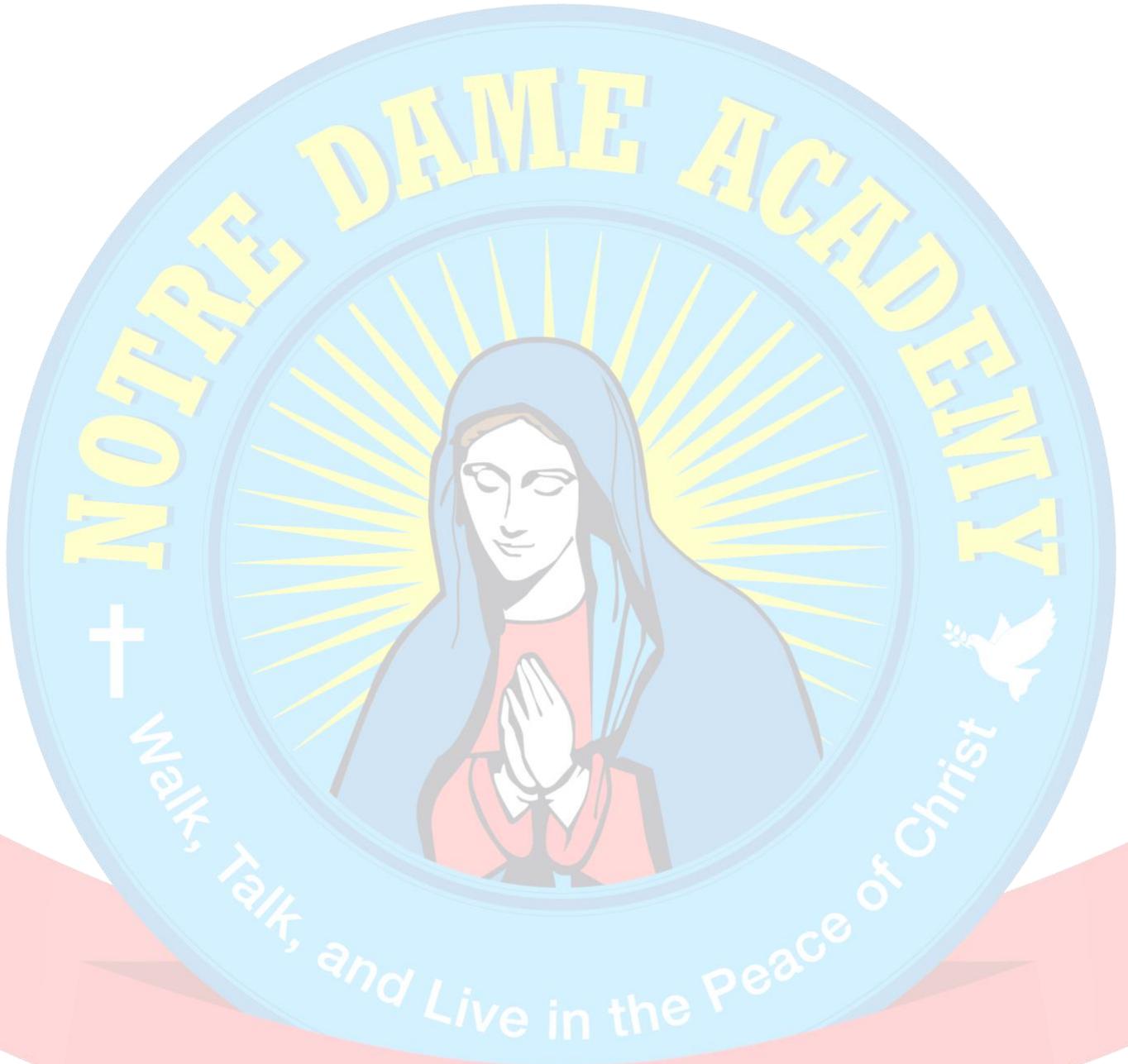
The following online actions are considered to be substantially or foreseeably disruptive to the school environment and subject to consequences up to and including suspension or expulsion at the discretion of the school administration.

ONLINE ACTIONS

- General inappropriate language of profane or sexual nature
- Profane or inappropriate language directed towards classmates, teachers, etc.
- Demeaning statements about or threats to any third party
- Incriminating photos, statements, or language in reference to any illegal activity
- Creating a danger to the safety of another person with threats of physical or emotional injury
- Indicating knowledge of an unreported crime
- Indicating knowledge of an unreported school violation

CONSEQUENCES

As stated above, consequences for such inappropriate actions by students are left to the discretion of the Notre Dame administration up to and including suspension and expulsion.



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