



# **CLASS DOJO USAGE POLICY: GUIDANCE AND EXPECTATIONS**

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**HEADTEACHER: ALEX BRAMLEY**

# ClassDojo Usage Policy – Guidance and Expectations



## **Background**

At Marsh Lane Primary School we aim to provide a positive learning environment for all children, where effective teaching and learning can take place. We believe that effective communication between home and school is essential to supporting children in their learning. Underpinning all of our core values of: Dream, Believe, Achieve, Succeed as well as our school rules: Ready, Respectful, Safe. These form the foundations for everything we do and are embedded across the school ethos.

## **Aims**

- To establish more effective communication links with parents/guardians.
- To enhance the current effective behaviour policy.

## **Introduction**

- 1.1** ClassDojo is an online tool which offers many features including: behaviour management, parent/guardian and teacher communication as well as class/school newsfeeds. Marsh Lane Primary School will not use ClassDojo for the behaviour point feature as this does not currently fit within our ethos and behaviour policy, we will however be using all the other features on offer.
- 1.2** ClassDojo is free and works on any iOS/Android/Kindle Fire device or web browser. Parents/guardians can also read all Class Story posts in their preferred language instantly.
- 1.3** In order for the system to work efficiently and effectively, this document will highlight the stipulations around use from teachers and parents/guardians in order to keep ClassDojo as a positive tool. This policy has been simplified onto a one page user guide document.
- 1.4** These stipulations will be annually reviewed during and after implementation of ClassDojo to reflect the values of the school and to protect the workload and well-being of our staff.
- 1.5** ClassDojo is compliant with the GDPR and parents/guardians give permission for the school to process their child's data on the system when they complete the data processing consent form. All information on ClassDojo is private between

teachers, parents/guardians and children. Information is never sold and ClassDojo permanently deletes pupils' personal information when they stop using ClassDojo. Teachers, parents and children can always access and delete their information at any time

## **How does Class Dojo work?**

- 2.1 We use the ClassDojo App to communicate securely with parents/guardians about their children online. The app offers a Facebook style interface which manages the flow of frequent information from school to home.
- 2.2 This is not a social media app as it has come to our attention that some of our parents don't have/want access to social media. Whilst we will still continue to use our school Facebook and Twitter accounts to engage with the community, this will not be a sole use of communication with parents to make it more accessible to all.
- 2.3 Parents/guardians are sent a passcode which connects them to their child's account - we use ClassDojo from Reception all the way through to Year 6.
- 2.4 Pupils will have the opportunity to login to their own area of ClassDojo and change their avatar (monster) as well as view their points. Please note, children do not have access to use messaging services through ClassDojo.
- 2.5 It provides an easy way for you to join the conversation. It is secure and personal to our school and provides information in an easy to use format similar to Twitter and Facebook.
- 2.6 We will use ClassDojo to keep in touch with you about school events, send reminders, send celebratory messages about learning and community activities.  
  
Class Dojo has two main elements that we will be using:
  - Class Story - general class news, photographs and celebrations, reminders and updates.
  - School Story - news and photographs from across the school, informing you about whole school events, sporting results and other whole school information and updates.
- 2.7 In the event of blended or home learning, class teachers will share tasks and activities through the class page. Children will be able to submit their home learning through their Student Portfolio.

## **Parents/Guardians and ClassDojo.**

ClassDojo is only available to parents and children registered at the school. Parents are reminded that they should not take images from ClassDojo and post them elsewhere online. What is posted in Dojo stays in Dojo. Breaching this requirement will lead to account suspension.

- 3.1** Parents/guardians will receive a covering letter upon starting at Marsh Lane Primary School on how the app will work and how to register. This will include a copy of this policy which the parents will have accepted in full if they sign up to use ClassDojo.
- 3.2** Parents/guardians can use a generated invite code in order to link with their child's class, either through the use of the smart phone app or website.
- 3.3** Only parents/guardians will be given access codes to ClassDojo. It is expected that up to two parents will be linked to a child's account; any additional adults will only be accepted in special circumstances.
- 3.4** Parents/guardians can view their child's story feed. They can like and comment on class posts. They can also message their child's class teacher - please follow our guidelines on this.
- 3.5** Parents/guardians can message teachers, however a response will only be given during the hours of 8am - 5pm Monday-Friday as the rest of the time teachers are set on 'quiet time'.
- 3.6** Parents/guardians should be aware that teachers will not necessarily respond to messages straight away, but will endeavour to do so within 24 hours during working days only. They may also not read the message that you have sent until the end of the day due to their teaching commitments.
- 3.7** Parents/guardians should be aware that an immediate response cannot be expected, as the main priority of staff is to teach, and a response will be given as soon as possible, during the working hours.
- 3.8** Parents/guardians should only message their child's class teacher and should not use ClassDojo to message any other members of the school staff. If messages are sent to anyone other than your child's class teacher, they will be ignored.
- 3.9** Parents/guardians should not use this messaging tool to enquire about the progress of their child on any level, but can use it to arrange a meeting with class teachers to discuss any questions they may have.
- 3.10** The following matters should always go through the School Office:
  - Absence (such as medical appointments)
  - Sickness
  - School dinner enquiries
  - Complaints
  - After School/ Breakfast Club enquiries
  - Urgent messages (e.g. collection of children)
- 3.11** Information that is sensitive and private will be sent to the teacher via the private messaging platform and remain confidential.

- 3.12 If parents/guardians do not wish for their child's photographs, digital recordings or work samples to be published on ClassDojo they must indicate so on the ClassDojo Permission Form (available from the school office if not already submitted).
- 3.13 Parents/guardians cannot share photographs, messages or work samples published on ClassDojo on their personal social media accounts due to a breach of privacy. Parents/guardians who share private or confidential material or information may be removed from ClassDojo.
- 3.14 Parents/guardians will recognise that ClassDojo is a means to share positive understandings of classroom and whole school learning. It should not be used to compare pupils work samples, digital recordings or photographs.
- 3.15 Parents/guardians will understand that the number of posts will not be consistent from week to week and will be dependent on events that are happening in school. The number and content of posts may also differ across year groups.

Parents who do not use the messaging system correctly will be given one warning before being blocked from using this feature of ClassDojo.

## Teachers and ClassDojo

- 4.1 Staff should be aware of the working hours (Monday-Friday 8am to 5pm) surrounding ClassDojo and that parents/guardians may message outside of these times. Teachers are asked to refrain from checking their messages outside of these working hours, as they will be marked as seen and this can be viewed by parents/guardians.
- 4.2 Should teachers receive any messages which they find inappropriate, they should see their line manager as soon as possible.
- 4.3 Should a staff member be unable to answer a question via the messaging system, they can ask the parent to phone the school directly.
- 4.4 Any messages which refer to absences, sickness, progress etc., should be directed to the school office with a brief message.
- 4.5 Teachers and support staff are encouraged to post updates on their class page- the amount is at your discretion and may include regular reminder posts about swimming/PE days/homework deadlines and other important class events such as trips or assemblies. In addition, celebrations of work should be shared either individually to parents/guardians or via the class page.
- 4.6 Teachers will regularly share messages and work samples via the Class Story page that promote positive understandings of class and whole school learning.
- 4.7 Teachers will only use the first names of the children when posting pictures or messages on ClassDojo (and may, on occasions, use the first initial of a child's

surname also if there is more than one child that shares the same first name within that class).

- 4.8** Teachers will only reply to messages that they receive from parents of children within their class (or those that they are responsible for if they are carrying out PPA cover). They will ignore any messages received that do not follow this rule.
- 4.9** Teachers are respectfully reminded to not engage in any conversations about personal matters via the class page or the messaging service. (Please familiarise yourself with Marsh Lane Primary School's Internet Code of Practice Policy and Online Safety Policy).
- 4.10** Information that is considered sensitive or private will be communicated with parents/guardians only via the private messaging platform, not through Class Story or School Story.
- 4.11** All users of Class Dojo are to make themselves fully aware of the children who are in LA care or who do not have permission to have their photographs shared on websites and social media from the school. Teachers will share photos, digital recordings, messages and work samples only for pupils whose parents/guardians have given written permission that this information can be shared.
- 4.12** Teachers cannot share content published on ClassDojo on their personal social media accounts due to a breach of privacy.
- 4.13** It is not expected that you will need the app on your mobile device, please be mindful of the impact this may have on your personal time.

### **Monitoring of the policy**

It is the responsibility of all members of staff who use ClassDojo to ensure it is used according to this policy. Monitoring of the policy will be by Senior Leaders who may ask to view the Class Dojo page at regular intervals to ensure the policy is being adhered to. Marsh Lane Primary School teachers, parents & guardians who participate in ClassDojo agree to the terms of the Code of Conduct. If these terms are breached, the Headteacher of Marsh Lane Primary School will decide on an appropriate course of action.

For more information about ClassDojo please refer to:

<https://www.classdojo.com/en-GB/#LearnMore>