

Teaching and Social Media

Social media is everywhere, it's hard to get away from it. No one wants their boss or unwanted co-workers finding those awful tagged photos that your friends uploaded of you doing something super embarrassing.

As teachers there's an extra level of caution that needs to be thought about.

Here are some essential dos and don'ts for navigating the social media minefield.

Lock it down

The first rule is to make sure no one can view your pages unless you want them to. This means privatising everything.

Be careful as different social media channels have different levels of privacy.

For Facebook:

Block people from seeing anything but your current profile and cover photos

Stop your profile from turning up in searches

Approve photos you've been tagged in - if you decline it, the photo will still be posted but you just won't be tagged in it.

For Instagram:

Lock your profile. Followers then have to be approved and no one else can see your photos - just remember all your followers you have before turning your account private will still remain.

Turn off appearing on suggested accounts to follow

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For Twitter:

Turn your account private so, like Instagram, only approved followers can see your tweets.

For Snapchat:

There are a lot of different privacy options, so make sure that only friends can view your story, location, and send you snaps.

Turn off your location on the Snap Map.

Also make sure that you turn off the Quick Add feature, so that only people who have your exact username can add you.

Change your name

This isn't as drastic as it sounds, I promise.

As a teacher your last name is what your students know you by, so using a different surname for social media can make it harder for them to find you.

You could instead use your middle name, maiden name or just make up one.

Don't be afraid of the block button

Even after protecting yourself, some sneaky kids (or their parents) manage to send you a friend request.

If this happens, don't just delete the request, make sure you block them so they can't do it again.

Follow your school's procedure

All schools should have a policy for how their staff should behave on social media, so make sure if you're moving school that you've read their policy as it might be different to the one you had before.

If you're unsure about anything you should just ask your line manager, and if you're struggling to figure out how to change your privacy settings, each social media platform has pages to guide you through.

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