

S.5 Setting up a social networking space on the school's

Intranet

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Dear Mr. Chan,

Are you a blogger? If you are, I believe you may understand the joy of sharing things with others. Hardly can we deny through social networking sites, we can share what happens in our lives with friends. This explains why most of the students spend time on Facebook or Twitter every day. In fact, recently, many students have suggested that a social networking space should be set up on the school's Intranet for them to share photos and feelings about school events. In my opinion, it is worthwhile to create such a platform for students.

In order to protect students, besides maintaining safety and order on campus, it is equally important to keep the virtual communication medium safe. With a view to achieving this objective, a social networking space on the school's Intranet should be set up. Recently, the rate of cyber crimes, such as fraud, cyberbullying and invasion of privacy, has increased significantly. If a social networking space for only staff and students is set up, the public will not be able to gain access to students' photos and personal information, which prevents such materials from being misused. Therefore, this is certainly a great way to protect students in the virtual world.

A social networking site on the Intranet is also a healthy medium which protects the impressionable minds from exposure to sex and violence. Such inappropriate content will adversely affect students' moral development. Unfortunately,

parents may not be aware of what their children are browsing on the Internet. Therefore, school has the responsibility to minimise such exposure by monitoring what is shared within a social network, and thus establishing a private socialising site is necessary.

In addition to protection, a school social networking site offers a platform for students to get closer. Unlike common social networking sites like Facebook and Twitter, where users can follow complete strangers and are exposed to a great deal of advertisements, a school social networking site is only for students to share status updates, photos and videos. This increases the chance for students to understand one another without being distracted by news about 'friends' they do not really know and products they may not be interested in. In other words, they can focus on interacting with their classmates, which can facilitate communication and mutual understanding among students.

In view of all the benefits mentioned above, it is hoped that a social networking site could be set up on the Intranet to provide a safe and healthy platform for students to share with one another all the memorable moments of their school life.

Yours sincerely,

Chris

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