

USE OF WECHAT FOR PSG BUSINESS

WeChat is a very useful instant messaging tool but has its limitations. It is not appropriate for detailed discussion because

- There is no record (a must if we are to keep track of things)
- It encourages people to think they must have an immediate reply where one is not always needed - remember this is a voluntary group and, whilst the welfare of our children is very important, people have busy lives and are not tuned 27/7 to WeChat
- It does not lend itself to detailed discussion of more complex matters
- It prompts an instant response without sometimes thinking matters through.

Moreover, there is a risk that WeChat will be seen as a replacement for, and bypass, regular PSGX meetings where full discussion can take place.

Therefore, the following guidelines should be followed:

1. Keep WeChat to the following:
 - General discussions to air views on a particular point as a preliminary to detailed PSGX meetings (i.e. don't try and make or force policy or other important decisions by WeChat)
 - Urgent critical Items that cannot await the normal process. By way of example, where an immediate situation has arisen where the School is not following its own policy thereby creating a health and safety risk and immediate contact is needed with the School.
 - Raising general PSG day to day matters (e.g. a request for volunteers for an event)
2. DO NOT USE IT as a way to force a decision on non-critical matters which can or could have been dealt with at a main PSGX meeting. By way of example, something that the School is doing within well-known existing policies is not appropriate for a final decision or vote via WeChat. If the matter has become important then it deserves a detailed discussion in a forum where all the pros and cons can be considered and evaluated by everyone.

THESE GUIDELINES ARE UP FOR DISCUSSION AT THE NEXT PSGX MEETING ON 18TH FEB.