

POLICY ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND DEFAMATION

Date of Review	17/03/2026	Approved by	Principal	CEHS/PS/ 2026-2027
Academic year	2026-2027	Next Review	16-03-2027	

1. Rationale

Crescent English High School recognizes the power of social media as a tool for communication and community building. However, it also acknowledges the risks posed when these platforms are misused to spread false, harmful, or defamatory statements. Such actions can damage the reputation of the school, its staff, students, and the wider community.

This policy aims to safeguard the integrity of the school, encourage responsible online behavior, and provide clear guidelines regarding defamation on social media.

2. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Prevent the misuse of social media for defamatory remarks against the school, staff, students, or community members.
- Educate stakeholders on the legal and ethical implications of defamation in the UAE.
- Establish consequences for individuals who engage in defamatory behavior online.

3. Scope

This policy applies to:

- All students, staff, and faculty of Crescent English High School.
- Parents, guardians, and members of the wider school community.
- Any online communication related to the school, whether posted on public or private platforms.

4. Guidelines for Responsible Social Media Use

- All stakeholders are expected to communicate respectfully on digital platforms.
- Concerns or complaints regarding the school must be addressed through official school channels, not social media.
- Posting, forwarding, or endorsing defamatory content about the school or its members is strictly prohibited.
- Privacy of students, parents, and staff must be respected; personal information must not be shared without consent.

5. Definition of Defamation

Defamation refers to any **false statement**, whether written, spoken, or shared electronically, that harms the reputation of an individual or the institution.

On social media, this includes but is not limited to:

- Spreading rumors or false accusations about staff, students, or the school.
- Posting offensive, derogatory, or misleading comments about the school community.
- Sharing manipulated content or misinformation intended to harm the school's reputation.

6. Legal Implications

- The UAE has strict laws under the **Cybercrime Law (Federal Decree Law No. 5 of 2012)** and the **UAE Penal Code** regarding defamation and misuse of social media.
- Individuals who post defamatory content may face **legal action**, including fines and imprisonment, in accordance with UAE law.

7. Consequences of Policy Violation

- **For Students:** Disciplinary action may include counseling, suspension, or expulsion, depending on the severity.
- **For Staff:** Violations will be addressed under school HR policies, which may include warnings, disciplinary measures, or termination.
- **For Parents/Guardians:** The school reserves the right to escalate cases to KHDA or seek legal remedies if defamatory content is posted online.

8. Reporting Defamation

- Any community member who becomes aware of defamatory content online must report it immediately to the Principal's Office or the school's designated safeguarding officer.
- The school will investigate promptly and take appropriate action in line with this policy and UAE 16

This policy will be reviewed annually by the School Management to ensure alignment with KHDA regulations and updates in UAE cyber laws.

Signed  Dr. Saleem Jamaludhin (Director)

Date: 19/03/2026

Signed  Dr. Sharafudeen Thanikatt (Principal)

Date: 19/03/2026