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Press Article

Safer social media: Education Workforce Council produces guide for Welsh practitioners

With the ever-increasing use of social media platforms such as Twitter, Facebook, YouTube and LinkedIn in addition to e-mail, texting and instant messaging, the Education Workforce Council has produced a guide to using social media responsibly for education practitioners in Wales.

The EWC's [Guide to using social media responsibly](#) coincides with Safer Internet Day on 9 February and contains useful information for teachers and learning support workers on how to manage their online presence.

During the last financial year, 30% of all hearings involved inappropriate use of social media, so it has never been more important to take extra care when communicating online. The guide is now available on our website, and should be read in conjunction with the Council's **Code of Professional Conduct** as the code sets out the key principles of good conduct and practise for registrants.

Deputy Chief Executive of the Education Workforce Council, Elizabeth Brimble said,

"When used responsibly and appropriately, social media can offer several benefits for practitioners such as building and maintaining professional relationships, access to support networks and as a way of sharing good practice and educational resources.

"However, there are also a number of dangers and pitfalls that practitioners need to be aware of if they decide to use social media. In fact, we have experienced a steady rise in cases referred to us relating to social media misuse.

"We hope you find the guide useful and if you have any queries about our fitness to practise work you can contact us and we will be happy to offer more information."

For more information, please contact us on media@ewc.wales or call 029 2046 0099.

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