

Dear Parents:

Many of you are members of WhatsApp or other social media groups that connect parents in a particular class. Ideally, the group chats are useful places to share information regarding your child's day in school; receiving updates and reminders about school events; as well as sharing parenting advice. Most of the time, these group chats can be a great resource and an enjoyable place to be in. But, as with many things in life, there are those unfortunate times where someone in the group may say something inappropriate. In order to prevent any miscommunications, here are some guidelines:

- If you have a query or concern about the teacher or the school leadership best go and talk to them directly. Face to face is always the best way.
- When writing, remember that that whatever you say on social media may be forwarded to someone else, and in a few minutes it may be seen by half the school.
- Homework is for students, not parents. Allow your children to be responsible and to go and check Managebac or the class newsletter or to check with a friend in the class about an assignment. Of course there are those days when you need to help.

The law in the UAE is very strict about posting negative statements about people, businesses or the government. The KHDA Parent-School contract (written by the KHDA, not the school) which all parents are required to sign includes this clause:

The school will not tolerate any form of defamation or intentional harm practiced through social media forums. The school must set a clear policy for parents and students about the use of social media outlets and/or forums. This policy must include, but not be restricted to, the following:

- Parents and students in all grade levels using any social media forum must, at all times, demonstrate respect for the members of the school community (including all students and personnel);
- Parents and students must not breach confidentiality, defame or make threats to any person in the school community;

Instances of proven and intentional breach of the above will result in sanctions that may include Suspension from the school.