



In all things faithful

St Damian's RC Science College

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Headteacher

Mr S Logue BA (Hons), M.Ed., NPQH

November 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Re: The inappropriate use of Social-Media

I write this letter to raise parental awareness of the inappropriate use of social media and to make clear the position of St Damian's.

This week my staff and I have had to deal with the inappropriate use of social media. Not only does this waste a lot of valuable time but platforms such as Instagram and TikTok have been used to bully other pupils. This is not acceptable, and I will not tolerate any form of bullying, including online bullying at St Damian's.

For clarity, where social media is used in the wrong way, for example, online bullying, malicious comments or brings the excellent reputation of our community into disrepute, I will take appropriate action up to and including permanent exclusion.

The inappropriate use of the internet and mobile devices takes place frequently during the evenings, weekends and holidays. I ask that parents speak to their children about the use of social media platforms and check their child's use of sites such as Facebook, Snapchat, Instagram and TikTok. As a school, we will continue to educate your child through the curriculum and assemblies about the responsible use of the internet and the dangers of the inappropriate use of social media. We will also signpost them on how to report online abuse. Please point out to your child that participation in online abuse is a criminal offence.

Furthermore, a child may put themselves at considerable risk due to the misuse of social media. e.g., giving personal details or publishing photographs and videos which can be distributed more widely. Pupils need to be fully aware of this risk. If your child is the victim of inappropriate use of social media, then I strongly recommend that you report the matter to both the social media site and to the police. In addition, the school will involve the police as appropriate where videos, pictures and/or messages are deemed as illegal activity.

St Damian's number one priority is safety of children and online bullying is not conducive to our ethos which is based on respect. Our collective aim is to look after our children's well-being and to keep them safe in partnership with our parents. The following website can be used to report harmful content: <https://reportharmfulcontent.com>

I thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Logue

Headteacher

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