



In all things faithful

**St Damian's RC Science College**

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**Headteacher**

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

3<sup>rd</sup> May 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

**Use/misuse of Social Media**

I feel that it is important that I write to you regarding a number of recent incidents that have occurred in Yr8 with the misuse of social media.

With an increasing number of pupils having access to technology, issues relating to using social media in an appropriate manner have been increasing and taking up an unprecedented amount of staff time.

To minimise incidents in school, we have a zero-tolerance phone policy on the school grounds. However, the incidents that I have personally dealt with in the last few weeks have happened after school, in the evenings or at the weekends.

The responsibility for monitoring a child's use of social media, must lie with parents and guardians. We strongly encourage you to discuss issues around this subject with your child. *Please do not believe that this letter about another child, it could be your child.* I am particularly worried about pupils viewing content that is not age appropriate and being exposed un-necessarily to social anxiety and cyber bullying.

If your child is the victim of inappropriate use, then we strongly recommend that you report the matter to both the social media service and to the police using the following link: <https://reportharmfulcontent.com/?lang=en-gb> . However, we will continue to support your child in school regarding appropriate use of the internet and social media through PSHE lessons and year group assemblies. We will also continue to monitor the use of any form of ICT during normal school hours and continue to safeguard your son/daughter in school.

I hope that by working together we can continue to educate our pupils on the pitfalls of social media and trust that we can keep all our students safe and well.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs S. Heenan (Associate Assistant Headteacher)

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