



St Mary's High School Downpatrick

Principal: Ms R McLaughlin B.Ed MSc PQH(NI)



Celebrating 60 Years of Education
1957 - 2017

'Every Child Matters'

January 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We are pleased to announce that we are increasing our online school presence using Facebook, which will provide us with the opportunity to communicate more quickly with Parents/Guardians.

Why do we want to do this?

- The children do so many great things in school and much of this you don't get to see or hear about. We would love to be able to share photos and videos of things happening on the day in school.
- We want to make our communications more timely and share more with you.
- It's a useful way to share important information with you, such as school closure due to adverse weather.
- We update information on our website, so we want a better way to inform you of this.
- It's a great way to share other important information and links with you that wouldn't normally be a part of our standard letters.

Please see below some common questions & answers regarding the use of Facebook.

QUESTION	ANSWER
1. Will you be posting videos and photos of the children?	Only where we have previously been given parental permission to do so. If you're not sure what permissions you have given, or wish to change these permissions please contact your daughter's Form Teacher.
2. Will we be able to make comments on posts?	Yes, you will be able to comment on individual posts. We would ask you to be respectful if you do comment. Any comments containing profanity or derogatory remarks will be removed. If you have a concern regarding a post you should contact us in the usual way.
3. Will this result in derogatory comments about the school or staff?	We would rather be completely open, and hope that parents and other users respect what we are trying to do. It is hoped that the Facebook page is a positive space to highlight school achievements. Any user that goes against this will be removed.
4. Will we be able to post photos/videos of the children, or tag children within Facebook?	No, in the interests of privacy and protecting children these functions will not be available.

If you have a particular question we would be grateful if you complete the Reply Slip below addressing it to the Principal or Mr Williamson, **and return it to your daughter's Form Teacher by Monday 13th January 2020.**

Yours sincerely

Ms R. McLaughlin
Principal

Mr M. Williamson
Public Relations Officer/
Facebook Administrator

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REPLY SLIP – FACEBOOK QUESTION - Please return Reply Slip to your daughter's Form Teacher by Monday 13th January 2020

QUESTION: _____

Signed: _____ **Date:** _____ **Daughter's Name/Class** _____

(Parent/Guardian)

Contact Telephone Number _____



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