



'Every Child Matters'

# St Mary's High School Downpatrick

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



Celebrating 60 Years of Education  
1957 - 2017

7<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

## **Re: E-Safety**

I hope your daughter has settled back into the demands of school life. I appreciate that this past year has been a difficult period of time for all young people and we want to support our girls to do their very best.

As a school, we appreciate the huge developments that are taking place in the world of technology. The pace of change is faster than most people can keep up with. We want our girls to acquire the necessary skills to use technology responsibly and safely. As a result of reports in the local area and further afield, the PSNI are advising all schools to make parents and guardians aware of the increased misuse of social media by young people.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind your daughter of the school rules regarding the use of mobile phones. Mobiles should be switched off during school hours. If your daughter is caught using her mobile phone it will be confiscated.

We are asking our parents and guardians to please do the following:

- ❖ Speak to your daughter about her behaviour online
- ❖ Speak to your daughter about the consequences of misusing Social Media
- ❖ Report offensive behaviour. If offensive behaviour goes unreported it can escalate
- ❖ Contact the PSNI if you become aware of this kind of behaviour online. This will enable you and the PSNI to decide if the issue requires police intervention

Furthermore, our ICT Policy is available to download from the school's website.

Further E- Safety help and advice is also available on the school's website.

Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have a concern or query and we will endeavour to advise as appropriate.

Your support in this matter is much appreciated to ensure everyone is safe online.

Yours sincerely,

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Ms Mc Laughlin  
Principal



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