



'Every Child Matters'

St Mary's High School Downpatrick

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



Celebrating 65 Years of Education
1957 - 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian

7th February 2023

I hope your daughter has an enjoyable mid-term break holiday. I would be most grateful if you would make some time during the week to discuss the following with your daughter:

School Uniform/PE Uniform

- Your daughter is an ambassador for St Mary's High School. Full school uniform should be worn. Skirts should be a respectable and decent length below the blazer. Only the school scarf may be worn.
- **The PE uniform should only be worn on the day your daughter is timetabled for PE.** This is under review as some students are abusing this privilege. We are moving out of the pandemic situation, and we will revert to the girls changing in school for PE. No student should be wearing Converse shoes or boots. This footwear is not designed for sports and it is dangerous.

Use of Toilets

All toilet blocks are left open in the building during the day. It has been brought to my attention that some students are constantly asking out of class to go to the toilets. This is very disruptive to the teaching and learning in the classroom. Your daughter will fall behind in her work as she is missing valuable teaching. If your daughter has a medical condition that requires her to be out of class, she needs to see a doctor. Furthermore, she may be out at the toilet wasting time on her phone sending texts. Students are reminded to use the toilets at break time and lunch time.

Use of Mobile Phones

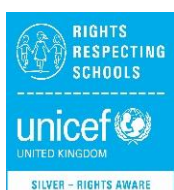
On 7th February we marked Safer Internet Day in school. I would suggest you do the following:

- Discuss the amount of time your daughter is spending on her phone
- What social media sites is she using? Is she safe?
- Are you regularly checking her phone?
- Are you aware of the online conversations she is having and the language used in the texts?
- Is she using her mobile late at night?
- No student should be using a mobile whilst crossing the main road – this extremely dangerous as she is not concentrating on traffic

We want to work in partnership with you to ensure that your daughter is achieving her potential in our school. We thank you in advance for having these difficult conversations with your daughter.

Yours sincerely

Ms McLaughlin
Principal



*Spirit of Catholic Education
Award 2022*

