



Policy on the acceptable use of Social Media for Parents and Guardians of All Saints Catholic Schools Network

"Communication is a means of expressing the missionary vocation of the entire Church; today the social networks are one way to experience this call to discover the beauty of faith, the beauty of encountering Christ." (Pope Francis' Message for the 48th World Communications Day [WCD], 2014.)

Excellence in the Christian education and formation of our students demands a Christian spirit of collaboration between parents and school staff. The social media policy serves to protect the Christian dignity of every student, teacher, and parent/guardian from the damaging effects of negative social media posts.

Parents/guardians should make complaints through official school channels rather than posting complaints on social networking sites.

Parents/guardians are to immediately bring any social media policy violations or concerns to school officials. Responding in kind to uncharitable communications through social media channels e.g., Facebook merely perpetuates divisiveness.

School officials will not mediate social media issues between students or parents unless it directly affects the school.

St. Michael's Catholic School considers the following examples to be inappropriate uses of social networking sites. (This list is non-exhaustive and intended to provide examples only):

- *Making allegations about staff or pupils at the School/cyber-bullying;*
- *Making complaints about the School/staff at the School;*
- *Making defamatory statements about the School or staff at the School;*
- *Posting negative/offensive comments about specific pupils/staff at the School;*

Parents should also ensure that their children are not using social networking/internet sites in an inappropriate manner. It is expected that parents/guardians explain to their children what is acceptable to post online. Parents/guardians are also expected to monitor their children's online activity, including in relation to their use of social media.

Once a post is brought to the attention of the principal or pastor and meets one or more of the criteria set forth, the principal or pastor will contact the originator.

The principal or pastor will explain why the post is deemed inappropriate and request that the offending post be taken down or retracted if necessary. Refusal to abide by or violation of this policy could lead to appropriate measures being taken, including removal of students from St. Michael's Catholic School.

Approved by BOE on 6-7-22