



## *St. Matthew's Catholic Primary School*

Queen's Drive, Liverpool, L4 8UA Tel / Fax: 0151 226 1871

Head Teacher: Mrs C Sime

**25<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

Dear parents and carers,

I am aware that many of our older children frequently use social media; snapchat, WhatsApp, House Party to name just a few platforms. Whilst there are many positives about this there are also quite a few problems.

We regularly have children being very upset/bothered about comments others have made on social media, 'blocking' each other adding each other to chat groups, sending inappropriate messages, arguing, etc. Much of what's been said happens during evenings, weekends and holidays but spills over into school and has negative impact friendships and on teaching and learning.

It is difficult for us as a school to deal with issues and incidents that have occurred as we do not have any control over children's access to the internet out of school hours. Investigating incidents that are essentially 'out of school hours' is time consuming for staff and often very difficult to investigate.

Facebook, YouTube, Instagram and Snapchat, House Party, TicToc all have minimum age requirements of thirteen yet a significant number of our ten- and eleven-year olds regularly use them. Not all children have the emotional maturity to use the various forms of social media safely, or appropriately and it is very easy for users to offend and upset others and send nasty messages.

As a parent I understand that our children may feel left out if they not part of social media, however as I am sure you are aware our children are extremely vulnerable when on these sites. If as a parent you chose to allow your child/ children to access social media I respectfully remind you to ensure you are vigilant. I would also suggest that you set a sensible cut off point each evening and that children do not have their phones or other devices in their bedrooms overnight. Some of our parents have settings on their own devices that enable them to receive copies of everything their child receives/sends which they find useful.

Further information for parents about social media and internet safety can be found on our school website.

Thank you for your continued support

Mrs Sime



*'Through respect we will work together in Christ to develop the whole person'*



# *St. Matthew's Catholic Primary School*

Queen's Drive, Liverpool, L4 8UA Tel / Fax: 0151 226 1871

Head Teacher: Mrs C Sime



*'Through respect we will work together in Christ to develop the whole person'*