

# Archbishop Ilsey Catholic School

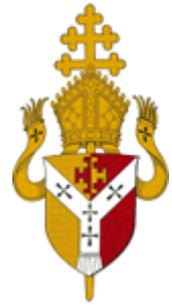
*'Justus et Tenax Propositi'*

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Head teacher: Mr Glen Alexander



14<sup>th</sup> January 2015

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I am writing to share with you some of my concerns regarding social media and the negative impact it is having on the learning and lives of some young people in our school.

Firstly, from a safeguarding point of view, there have been several frightening examples of young people being in contact with much older and more sinister individuals intent only on communicating to satisfy their own selfish and depraved needs.

Thankfully, actions have taken place to stop these young people becoming victims of serious crime. I pose this question to you as parents; **do you know who your child is communicating with on social media?** For their safety and well-being, I hope the answer is yes.

Secondly, Social media is being used as a means to target, humiliate, bully or intimidate others by an increasingly large number of our pupils. Thankfully this is still a minority of pupils. Some material and information shown to teachers is both shocking and disturbing. I can't believe that common decency and respect appears to be forgotten in various chat rooms and forums.

**This is not in keeping with our school ethos of treating each other with respect.**

As a school, we have no powers to monitor your child's social media or stop them from using it in their own time outside of school hours. **This is a parental responsibility.** Unfortunately, valuable time that should be spent supporting learning and tracking pupil progress is being wasted as professionals are becoming embroiled in issues out of their control.

Can I ask parents to be aware of these issues and I plead with you to both monitor your child's social media use and intervene if necessary. If social media is bringing distress to your child then please encourage them to spend their time doing something more positive.

As a school we will continue to educate your child on the dangers of social media. We plan to run workshops to support parents in the summer term. The school will do what it has the powers to do.

Unfortunately, we cannot control social media usage by our pupils outside of school hours.

Yours sincerely,

C. Crehan

Mr C Crehan  
Assistant Head teacher

Useful Website for information of the dangers attached to social media use: [www.nspcc.org.uk/shareaware](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/shareaware)  
Channel 4 recently screened a programmes raising awareness of the dangers attached to using social media.

[www.channel4.com/programmes/cyberbully](http://www.channel4.com/programmes/cyberbully)

**Please look out for a blue button when using social media should you find it necessary to alert the provider or make a complaint.**

