



Education Resources
Executive Director **Tony McDaid**

St Mark`s Primary School

Parent/Carer

Our ref:

Your ref:

If calling ask for: Elaine O`Donnell

Phone: 0141 634 4238

Date: 05 November 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Use of mobile devices and social media

I am writing to all parents and carers with advice and guidance on the use of personal mobile devices and social media such as facebook, twitter, instagram (photo/video images) and blogs.

There is no doubt that the internet, social media, email, text, tweets and Instagram are used by many parents, carers and families (including children), to communicate on a regular basis and during this pandemic it has been a great way to keep people connected.

As a school we embrace these new technologies if they are used in a positive and constructive fashion. However, recently the school and South Lanarkshire Council have become aware that there is on-line activity through Facebook which has given cause for concern as children and staff can be identified.

My purpose in writing is to make you aware of the wider implications about inappropriate use of mobile phones and other devices which have access to the internet, facebook, twitter and Instagram and to reinforce that when this happens it has a negative impact on children and staff.

It is therefore important to bring to your attention, the need to take care when children and adults are posting messages/photos/images to ensure that they do not cause harm or distress to any individual. The naming of children and reference to staff is not appropriate as it could be determined as derogatory. As a school we ask that if you have concerns, you raise them with me directly, so that we can listen and consider the next steps in order to support your child.

You may wish to know that The General Teaching Council for Scotland advises teachers to be aware that electronic messages are not anonymous. They are in the public domain, can be tracked and exist forever on the internet. Social media sites archive the content posted even when deleted from an online presence.

I ask for your continued support in ensuring that we all use mobile devices and social media in a positive manner and with consideration for others.

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I appreciate that with the pandemic it has not been possible for you to drop into school to talk to me about any concerns you may have. I would wish you to know that the opportunity is always there for you to contact me by 'phone or email to discuss any matters about your child.

I would wish to reassure you that as a school, we are all working together to meet the challenges posed by COVID-19 and to provide a caring and welcoming environment for your children who have shown remarkable resilience, as have my staff over these last few months.

Thank you in anticipation of your support.

Yours sincerely

Elaine O'Donnell
Head Teacher