28 August, 2013

IPads at St Mary’s – New Policy Development.

Dear Parents and Guardians of Year 5 and 6,

The individual iPad program continues to be a great success at St Mary’s. Shortly, we will have a link on our school website to display the fantastic ways in which iPads are being used to enrich learning in so many different ways.

The implementation of the Digital Citizenship Program at the beginning of the year and our ongoing emphasis in Year 5 and 6, on being Cyber Safe and Cyber Aware, has meant that we have had very few issues of concern. This is a credit to the responsible and enthusiastic approach of our students and careful monitoring by our teachers.

We have been advised by the Technical Support department of the Catholic Education office that we need to amend our iPad policy. It is in regard to the use of Social Media Websites on the student iPads.

- **All social media websites**, such as Facebook, Instagram, KIK and ask.fm, and others have binding terms of usage.
- These terms affect your legal rights and obligations. If you do not agree to be bound by these terms, the service should not be used or accessed.
- Social media sites, require that the user be over 13 years of age and /or indicate that all content is applicable to over 13 year olds.

As a school and internet system provider, therefore, we cannot allow, on student iPads, these or any other social media sites. Most schools are now moving towards this decision. iPads cannot be used to access these sites and the school email address cannot be used as the email for a social media account.
We therefore require all students with iPads to adhere to the following policy regarding social media.

All Students:

- Should remove all social media apps from their iPads.
- iPads should not be used to access any social media or chat sites.
- Remove from any social media account, their school email address.
- Should not use their school email for any social media purposes or to send any social media content. School email is for learning purposes only and may be monitored and checked regularly.
- This should occur by MONDAY 2nd of September 2013.

PARENTS: A Reminder..

A reminder to please check and monitor your child’s internet usage regularly. In the same way that we supervise and check where they go and what they read, we have a responsibility to our own children and for the safety of all children that they associate with, to monitor closely and see, what is being written and posted.

In the past week I have seen some inappropriate language and comments which I’m sure parents were unaware of. There have been two cases where social media sites have been used to cause deliberate upset. Your child’s internet use requires your active supervision, as they grow in understanding and awareness of the many dangers of misuse and the richness of learning they can access. At this age, they require active supervision and monitoring and should always be using their device in your view. This includes their use of email.

We say to the students, that if you couldn’t put it on a placard and walk down the main street with it, you should not put it on line. Also, that anything you put on line should present you as a dignified, Christian, person who has self-respect and respect for others.
We also say that if you think your parents, grandparents, teachers, friends or future employers might not like it, don’t put it on line. The final thing to always emphasise is privacy – that is be very careful what you want the world to know about you – once it has been posted, you cannot get it back.

Please return the reply slip by next Monday, so that we can be assured that all parents are aware of this policy.

It is important to note that misuse of iPads or non-compliance with iPad guidelines for St Mary’s, will result in consequences which may include a loss of iPads for a period of time.

Thank you.

Catrina Niddrie,
Stage Three Teachers

I have read and understood the iPad Social Media Policy for St Mary’s Young. I have discussed the policy with my child and checked their iPad.

Child Name: ___________________ Signature______________

Parent Name___________________ Signature______________