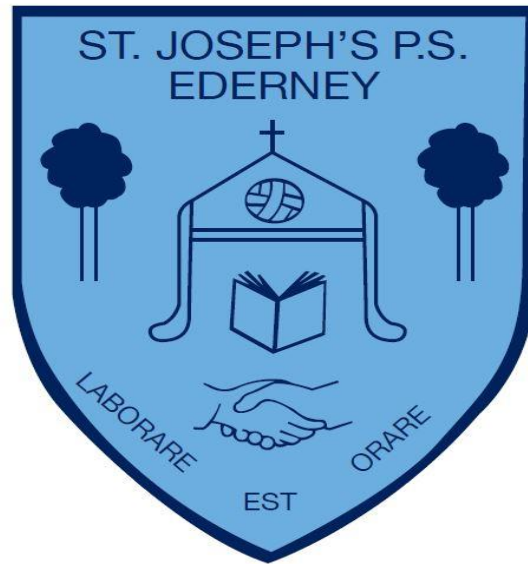


# St. Joseph's P.S



## Facebook Policy

## **Rationale:**

Our school acknowledges that there are increasing numbers of people using social networking sites. The widespread availability and use of social networking applications brings opportunities to understand, engage, and communicate with audiences in new ways.

## **Aims:**

St. Joseph's P.S. aims to

- grow our school and community's understanding of social media and to make connecting with our school more convenient for our families
- allow our community to keep up to date with activities through a medium which is preferred by many
- seek input (through comments and 'likes') from our families
- build our school community by building our school spirit
- provide a positive focus for our school and bring everyone's attention to the things we do that make our school community great.

## **Policy statement:**

The school reserves the right to suspend or cease using Facebook at the discretion of staff. Where there are issues of a potentially serious criminal nature such as threats or inappropriate comments, the matter will be referred directly to the relevant governing body.

## **School Account**

The School account will be managed by the school on a school device, to ensure the policy can be implemented and monitored effectively. Establishing a social media tool for an educational purpose requires the consent of the principal. All department / school-based policies should be adhered to.

## **Identifiable Accounts**

All users interacting (following or commenting) with St. Joseph's P.S. Facebook page, must do so using a Facebook account that is identifiable.

## **Posting Comments**

St. Joseph's P.S encourages families to share positive comments in relation to current events. We remind members of our community that there are many issues which are best dealt with privately, in consultation with relevant staff members. Issues involving students or staff **must not** be raised on our Facebook page. We are happy for people to register their support through a Facebook comment or a 'like'.

We will not support interactions that incite negative sentiments. Names of staff, students, or school community members **must not** be used in any negative postings. Our Facebook page admin will delete any negative or inappropriate comments.

## **Underage Facebook Users**

St. Joseph's Primary School does not endorse children under the age of thirteen years of age (a threshold imposed by Facebook), having their own Facebook account. We encourage children, under parental supervision, to view our school's Facebook page and contribute to content. We believe the conduct of our community members on our Facebook page will serve as a role model for our students on how to behave in social media spaces.

### **Moderation and Block listing**

St. Joseph's Primary School reserves the right to set the strength level of the Facebook profanity filter and to add additional words and names to the page's block list. Actions resulting in deliberate breaches to this policy may include prohibiting a user from interacting on the school's Facebook page.

### **Privacy**

Parental consent for the use of student names and photos will be obtained annually and can be revoked at any time.

This policy will be reviewed every three years or annually in light of any issues that may arise.