



# St Joseph's Roman Catholic High School

Chorley New Road | Horwich | Bolton | BL6 6HW

**Telephone:** 01204 697456 | **Fax:** 01204 669018

**Website:** [www.stjosephsbolton.org.uk](http://www.stjosephsbolton.org.uk) | **Email:** [office@st-josephs.bolton.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-josephs.bolton.sch.uk)

**Headteacher:** Mr T McCabe | **Deputy Headteachers:** Mr M Graham, Mrs J Morgan | **Chair of Governors:** Mrs P Jones  
**Registered Charity Number:** 1075795 | **Facebook/Twitter:** StJosephsRCHS

20th October 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been brought to my attention that there have been images, comments and public online discussions about students at our school on social media.

Like every school we are aware that there are students at our school who sometimes choose the wrong behaviour and need support to make the right choices. Young people have to learn from mistakes. Regrettably there has been a very small number of episodes of aggressive behaviour. I am sure that you will appreciate that each instance requires a personal approach and that when two or more of our students are struggling to get along, it will take time to restore a lasting positive relationship.

It would never be appropriate for us to advertise to the community what sanctions these students receive but please be assured that we take time to follow each instance through.

We are becoming increasingly convinced that punishments are not the only way to reform behaviour. In fact research suggests that if punishments were the best way to reform behaviour our prisons would not be full of reoffenders. As a school we are committed to implementing restorative justice approaches. This involves working with the individuals separately to find the root causes of their behaviour and then facilitating an opportunity to bring students together to resolve the issue. This is a long complicated process and demands large amounts of resources. This process is not a soft option and has a credible more sustained impact. We are working with specialists who train Manchester Metropolitan Police and a team of experts from Bolton University to ensure that this process is effective and sustainable.

Quite clearly if parents and carers post negative comments, videos or images of students and make negative comments about other student's behaviour this will exacerbate the relationship and inflame the situation, undermining our attempts to resolve conflict. Furthermore, this has safeguarding implications and may put students in a vulnerable situation. We are asking for your support in this. Rather than posting negative issues about school experiences online, please work with us and report any instances you come across. Please also be aware that you will only be receiving a partial view what has happened. There is always a fuller picture and things are rarely as they first appear. We need your help to start to build a picture of the full details.

If you do have concerns about your child please contact your child's form tutor or Head of Year. We have a team of student support officers who are also available to listen to you, help resolve the situation and pass relevant information to the Head of Year.

Please be assured that we are committed to supporting our young people to make lasting relationships and overcome any conflict.

The overwhelming majority of our students are incredibly well behaved and we appreciate the support of parents and carers who go the extra mile with us to help resolve issues and improve lives.

Yours sincerely

Mr T McCabe  
Headteacher

