

Guidelines for Technology Related Communications between Adults and Students

In the spirit of transparency with those we minister to and with, guidelines for dealing with Social Media and Technology related to communication with our students have been developed

These are areas of concern of which all who are teaching or in roles of leadership in youth ministry should be aware:

- Staff and catechists will not “friend” any student on Facebook.
- Staff and catechists will not use personal e mail accounts to communicate with students; they will only use e mail accounts provided by the parish. If E mails have to be sent from personal accounts they must be copied to parents **and** the DRE
- Cell phone contact with a student should be for church related matters only (e.g. regards to an event or scheduled activity.) Parents and the DRE must be made aware of the contact. **The preferred method of contact is church email.**
- Invitations from young people to interact one- on- one through instant messaging, texting and social networking sites must be declined by staff and catechists.
- Use of webcam or internet type of phone to communicate with young people is not permitted
- Any file uploaded by a member of staff or catechist to a student must be copied to a parent/guardian **and** DRE
- Staff and catechists will not participate in any on line games with students

These guidelines are meant to protect those in ministry, not impede ministry from happening.

Please feel free to contact Bridget Rao for any issues of clarification on this communication:

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