



Belfast City Council



St Mary's University College Belfast
A College of Queen's University



Dear Principal

St Patrick's Day – Sunday 17 March

As educators across primary, post primary, further and higher education we share a common commitment to the safety, wellbeing, and academic progression of pupils and students.

As we approach St Patrick's Day, we are writing to ask for your help in delivering an important message from the Police Service of Northern Ireland, Belfast City Council, Queen's University, Ulster University, Belfast Metropolitan College and the University Colleges to students in your school.

We work alongside local churches and voluntary groups throughout the year to ensure that university and college students and long-term residents can live safely and considerately alongside each other in the Holyland area of south Belfast.

Over recent years it has become clear that this area has become a popular destination on St Patrick's Day for many young people from across Northern Ireland who travel to the area to party and socialise. Many of these young people have come to the attention of Belfast City Council as well as the PSNI for a range of issues including noise, on street drinking and antisocial behaviour. Some of this anti-social behaviour could lead to penalties which can have an impact on future travel and job opportunities.

Our message to your students, is to celebrate the holiday away from the residential streets of the Holyland. Our aim is to work collectively to protect local children, older people, students and other residents who feel particularly vulnerable on St Patrick's Day when large numbers of young people congregate in the streets to celebrate.

We would very much appreciate you sharing this message with pupils in your school and with their parents. Your support in communicating this out will be invaluable.

Thank you for your support in this matter.

Dr Ryan Feeney
Vice-President Strategic
Engagement and External
Affairs Queen's University

Professor Duncan Morrow
Director of Community
Engagement, Ulster
University

David McDowell
Head of Learner Success Belfast
Metropolitan College



David Sales
Director of Neighbourhood Services
Belfast City Council



Chief Superintendent Darrin Jones
Police Service of Northern Ireland



Professor Jonathan Heggarty
Principal
Stranmillis University College



Professor Peter Finn
Principal
St Mary's University College

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