



**ST MARY'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL POLICY ON STUDENT USE OF
INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY
(Years K-3) 2-B8**

RATIONALE

Communication Technology (ICT) has been introduced into schools predominantly through online communication and the internet. The availability of such resources provides the opportunity for schools to help students develop their full potential. ICT provides significant educational value but can pose a risk of exposure to inappropriate and offensive material and personal safety.

In accordance with the teachings of the Catholic Church, the practice of communication must be totally honest and reflect the highest standard of accountability and sensitivity to human rights and relationships.

DEFINITIONS

'Information and Communication Technology (ICT)' means all computer hardware, software, systems and technology including the internet, online communication, and social networking sites (e.g. Facebook) and telecommunications devices (e.g. mobile phones) in facilities that may be used or accessed from a school campus or connected to a school's communication network.

Defamation is the publication, declaration or broadcast of material that is capable of lowering a person's reputation in the estimation of others.

Harassment, Discrimination and Bullying is unlawful behaviour as defined in the Catholic Education Commission Policy Statement 2-B4: 'Harassment, Discrimination and Bullying'.

PRINCIPLES

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1. St Mary's Catholic School has made rules about how students use online communication and the internet so that they can use it in the best way. Students must follow these rules and listen to their teacher so that ICT can be used to communicate with others and learn about things.
 2. St Mary's Catholic School has made rules about using ICT so that everyone at the school is safe and happy. Students can use ICT only if they look after it and follow all the rules about the use of ICT.
 3. St Mary's Catholic School can check all the school's ICT to make sure students are following the school rules.

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- PROCEDURES**
1. Students shall obey all of the school rules about online communication and the internet and take good care of the school computer equipment.
 2. Students shall only use the school software on the schools computers. Students will not bring any software from home to install on the school computers.
 3. Students shall only send online communication with their teacher's permission.
 4. Students shall go only to sites on the internet that a teacher has said they can use. If students find anything on the internet that makes them feel bad or uncomfortable they must click on HOME or turn the monitor off and tell their teacher.
 5. Before students send an online communication they must show it to the teacher. Everything a student writes in an online communication or through the internet must be their best work that they would be proud to show to their parents. A student will not use online communication or the internet to annoy, bully or frighten anyone.
 6. People who put information on the internet for students to read own that information. If students use anything from the internet in their own work they must check with their teacher before they copy it to make sure they have the owner's permission to copy it.
 7. Students shall never share via online communication their name, address, telephone number or any other private information. Students shall not send their photograph to anyone without checking with their teacher and having a permission note from their parents.

**ST MARY'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL POLICY ON
STUDENT USE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION
TECHNOLOGY (YEARS 4-6)**

RATIONALE

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PRINCIPLES

1. The St Mary's Catholic School ICT is provided for educational purposes only.
2. Using St Mary's Catholic School ICT is a privilege. This privilege can be removed if school rules are broken. Students using the school's ICT must not break State or Commonwealth laws (a summary of these laws is an attachment to this Policy and forms part of this Policy).
3. The school has the right to check all written, graphic, audio and other materials created, produced, communicated, stored or accessed on school ICT by students, including online communication.
4. Students shall be made aware that access to ICT, particularly the internet and online communication, can expose them to inappropriate material or potential harm.

PROCEDURES

1. Students understand that the use of St Mary's Catholic School ICT is a privilege. This privilege may be lost if a student uses ICT in an unacceptable way.

2. The acceptable and unacceptable use by students of the ICT are listed below.

2.1 Acceptable use shall include but is not limited to:

- following teachers' instructions
- accessing only the information the teacher has agreed to
- being polite and courteous when using online communication
- seeking the teacher's permission before sending an online message
- researching information for a topic or assignment given by the teacher
- correctly acknowledging the work of others according to copyright laws
- respecting the privacy of others including other students and staff members
- informing the teacher if you are concerned that you have accidentally accessed inappropriate material
- handling all ICT equipment with care.

2.2 Unacceptable use shall include but is not limited to:

- using ICT without permission or without supervision by a teacher
- visiting any site that has not been approved by the teacher
- using the internet to access offensive or inappropriate information
- interfering with online communication or files belonging to others
- downloading anything without the teacher's permission
- sending a personal photograph without the written permission of a parent
- sending anything without the teacher's permission
- sending or receiving a message which has a false name or has used another's name without permission
- sending online communication to bully, frighten, annoy or upset a person.

POLICY ATTACHMENT

IMPORTANT STATUTES WHICH ARE APPLICABLE TO STUDENTS' USE OF SCHOOL ICT INCLUDE:

Copyright Act 1968 (Cth)

Students may copy or otherwise deal with copyright material for the purpose of study or education. However, generally only the author of original material has the right to reproduce, copy, publish, perform, communicate to the public and make an adaptation of the copyright material.

Equal Opportunity Act 1984 (WA)

This Act precludes:

- Discrimination against persons on grounds of sex, marital status or pregnancy, family responsibility or family status, sexual orientation, race, religious or political conviction, impairment or age in education
- Sexual harassment and racial harassment in the workplace and in educational institutions; *and*
- Promotes community recognition and acceptance of the equality of all persons regardless of their race, sexual orientation, religious or political convictions, impairments or ages.

Censorship Act 1996 (WA)

Students must not use a computer service to transmit, obtain or request an article knowing that it contains objectionable and restricted material. It is an offence to possess or copy indecent or obscene articles or child pornography. Students should be aware for their own protection that people who deal with such material commit an offence.

Criminal Code (WA)

Students should be aware that it is illegal to show offensive material to children under 16, and that if someone does show them offensive material that person is committing an offence. Racist harassment and incitement to racial hatred are also criminal offences.

Cybercrime Act 2001 (Cth)

Unauthorised access to or modification of data held in a computer and unauthorised impairment of electronic communication eg 'hacking' or infecting computer systems with a virus, are illegal.

Privacy Act 1988 (Cth)

Students should respect that the personal information of others is private. This Act covers the collection, use and disclosure, quality and security of personal information.