

ST JOHN PAUL II CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



Information and Communication Technology Use by Students Policy



Review 2014

Rationale:

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has been introduced into schools allowing access to email and the Internet and other telecommunication devices. 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.

Definition:

'Information and Communication Technology (ICT)' means all computer hardware, software, systems and technology including the Internet, email and social networking (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 means unlawful behaviour as defined in the Catholic Education Commission Policy Statement 2-B4: "Harassment, Discrimination and Bullying".

Principles:

1. The policy concerning student use of ICT shall reflect the teachings and educational goals of the Catholic school. Access to ICT shall be balanced with all elements of the school curriculum.
2. St John Paul II Catholic Primary School has a duty of care to ensure policies and practices are effective in ensuring appropriate access by students to ICT.
3. St John Paul II Catholic Primary School can check all the school's ICT to make sure students are following the school rules.
4. Access to ICT is provided to students as a privilege and students have a responsibility to use it in accordance with the expectations of the school as set out in this policy.
5. St John Paul II Catholic Primary School's policy of the use of ICT by students reflects the developmental stages of students.
6. The use of school ICT, including the Internet and email, by students shall not be contrary to relevant State and Commonwealth laws (a summary of these laws are an attachment to this policy and form part of this policy), a breach of school rules or policy, or otherwise be inappropriate or offensive (as outlined at procedure 5 of this policy).
7. As parents are the prime educators of their child/ren, they shall be informed of the school policy and encouraged to assist in facilitating its implementation.

Procedures:

1. St John Paul II Catholic Primary School shall develop, implement and enforce a policy on ICT use by students.
2. St John Paul II Catholic Primary School's policy shall identify acceptable and unacceptable use of ICT by students.
3. All students and their parents / guardians shall be made aware of the school's policy on student use of ICT.
4. Emphasis shall be placed on educating students, at a developmentally appropriate level, about ICT, its applications, protocols, abuses and potential dangers. This educative process shall be integrated within all areas of the school curriculum.
5. The school's policy shall contain statements that appropriately identify and explain inappropriate or offensive material or conduct, such as material or conduct that:
 - infringes a person's copyright or other intellectual property rights
 - is defamatory of a person or an organization
 - contains sexually explicit, indecent or obscene or pornographic material
 - is discriminatory against a person on the basis of, for example, sex, race, religion, disability or age
 - deals with a person's personal information in a way that breaches privacy laws
 - constitutes racial harassment or incites racial hatred
 - constitutes harassment or bullying
 - is infected with a computer virus, would result in a breach of school security or disruption to the school's networks, or constitutes a 'cybercrime'
 - is otherwise contrary to school rules or policy
6. The school's policy shall state that unacceptable use of ICT constitutes a serious breach of school rules and possibly the law and may result in a student losing the right to use ICT resources for a period of time and / or the applications of other sanctions.
7. Unlawful and / or serious misuse of ICT may result in the school involving the Police or other government agencies.
8. The school's policy shall be available to the school community through appropriate means e.g. the school Internet site, or in a hard copy format when requested.
9. The use of the school's ICT shall be informed by the guidelines in the CathEdNet Handbook as published from time to time.

ATTACHMENT

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

Copyright Act 1968 (Commonwealth)

Staff 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

This Act 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)

Staff 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)

Staff 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 (Commonwealth)

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

Privacy Act 1988 (Commonwealth)

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