

Purpose

'The digital world is characteristic of the contemporary world...the web and social networks have created a new way to communicate and bond...Yet to understand this phenomenon as a whole, we need to realise that, like every human reality, it has its share of limitations and deficiencies.'

Pope Francis, Christus vivit, 2019.

Access to digital technologies, including the internet, is provided to students and staff at St Paul's Primary School because digital information and communication are important mediums for contemporary learning and teaching and administration. Within MACS a range of technology platforms, such as the Integrated Catholic Online Network (ICON) provide access to a suite of digital technologies. The information, communication and learning technologies used by students in classrooms will be appropriate to the age and development of students. These technologies are used to support professional learning and the development of networks within and between St Paul's Primary School and other schools for professional learning. They also enable effective communication with our parents and allow them to participate in their children's education, working in partnership with teachers.

In using and managing internet and network services, students and staff at St Paul's Primary School are expected to respect the rights and privacy of all persons. They are called upon to respect the dignity of every human person. St Paul's Primary School, along with parents in our community, educate students in the use of information and communication technologies to assist them to become responsible users, creators and publishers in the digital environment.

Digital technologies and their use in classrooms are opening up new opportunities for learning, and previously unimagined approaches to teaching and learning. Today, young people have access to knowledge, people and new ideas like never before. They are able to connect, collaborate and build relationships with peers, educators and the wider global community. The use of digital technologies within Catholic schools supports learners to question, evaluate and consider the validity of information and then search for truths contained in those ideas. Learners are empowered to demonstrate adaptability and versatility in thinking and strategies as they select, use and manage a range of applications and technologies. We seek to develop students who are responsible and ethical communicators, creators and publishers in the digital community.

This policy outlines the appropriate use and management of digital technologies such as the internet and network services at St Paul's Primary School in accordance with legal and moral requirements and expectations.

Scope

This policy applies to members of the St Paul's Primary School community in their use of digital technologies. It applies to all computers, devices, internet and network services, information and communication technologies, applications, and systems provided, operated and managed by the school. This policy does not apply to the curriculum content or the expected standards of usage by students or staff in the school. The curriculum and teaching practices and pedagogy are outlined in documents related to our learning and teaching programs.

Definitions

Computer is either a desktop or portable laptop device that performs processes, calculations and operations based on instructions provided by a software or hardware program.

Device refers to a unit of physical hardware or equipment that provides one or more computing functions within a computer system. It can provide input to the computer, accept output or both. Typical hardware includes a computer mouse, speakers, printer and microphone.

Email means the system that enables users to send data over the internet using computers and mobile devices.

ICON means the Integrated Catholic Online Network which is used to deliver shared services for educational and administrative purposes across Catholic schools.

Internet means the system of interconnected networks that connects computers for data transmission and storage.

Intranet refers to a local system of computers enabling students and staff to communication and share information within their school community.

Mobile devices refers to (but is not limited to) mobile phones, PDAs and portable storage devices.

Network services means the facilities and resources located on and delivered via a computer-based network, including communication systems, internet and intranet services, mobile devices, electronic mail, web services, printer services, database services, back-up services, file services and network management services.

Parents includes parents, guardians and carers.

Social networking means web-based services that allow individuals to create their own online profiles and communicate with each other by voice, chat, instant message, image sharing, video conference and blogs in a virtual community.

Staff means salaried, voluntary and contracted persons.

Students means those students enrolled at St Paul's Primary School.

Website is an internet based page or series of pages grouped together and managed by a person or group.

Principles

The use of digital technologies within our school by staff and students at St Paul's Primary School is underpinned by the following principles and understanding:

- that digital technologies provide valuable opportunities for staff and students to collaborate, connect and create with peers, colleagues, experts and the wider community
- that online behaviour will at all times demonstrate respect for the dignity of each person in the community
- users will behave in a manner that is ethical when using the internet and network services (even for personal communication)
- the Catholic beliefs and ethos of the school, and professional expectations and standards required by teachers are demonstrated in the way the technologies are used
- inappropriate online behaviour, including cyberbullying, will not be tolerated.

Policy

Internet and Network Access

Access to internet and network services are provided by MACS to staff and students of St Paul's Primary School for educational and administrative purposes. From time to time, other MACS policies and requirements in particular schools may result in restrictions.

Access rights assigned to students and staff at St Paul's Primary School will be determined by the principal and may vary as educational and administrative purposes change.

Students and staff at St Paul's Primary School may not use the internet and network services provided for commercial purposes, either offering or acquiring goods or services for personal use. The services cannot be used for political lobbying or proliferation of unnecessary communications.

Expectations of users

All students and staff at St Paul's Primary School are required to use the internet and network services in accordance with this policy. Any use of devices or services that may be questionable, offensive, and controversial or against the Catholic ethos is unacceptable. This includes personal communication with students on matters not related to curriculum or education. These standards apply whenever St Paul's Primary School equipment or communication lines are used, including use from home or other non-school location and when a private account is used.

Non-compliance with this policy

Disciplinary action may be undertaken by St Paul's Primary School against any student or staff member who is found to be inappropriately using the provided internet, network services, device or mobile device. The principal will determine the disciplinary measures to be undertaken in accordance with other policies and guidelines. These measures may be outlined in staff handbooks or the Acceptable User Agreement for students used by St Paul's Primary School.

Duty of Care

St Paul's Primary School will provide instruction to students in online personal safety issues, including inappropriate sites, stranger danger, cyberbullying and scams. St Paul's Primary School will prepare staff to deal with these issues.

Monitoring

Students

Online activities may be monitored or reviewed to assess network efficiency, examine system security and to investigate alleged breaches of this policy.

Staff

An authorised person (e.g. principal, Regional General Manager or other MACS staff member) can monitor the use of MACS ICT resources. Server logs may also be used in an investigation of an alleged breach of this policy.

Security

To minimise risk to MACS information and communication networks from viruses and intrusions, current virus screening software is activated, and where appropriate, passwords are used by staff and students of St Paul's Primary School. Firewalls will be maintained. The management of system protocols and configurations are the responsibility of the staff authorised by the school or MACS. Non-authorised staff and students are not permitted to have access to these levels of system management.

Email

Email service is provided for educational and administrative purposes. Staff and students at St Paul's Primary School must identify themselves appropriately by using a signature block at the bottom of the email message that includes their name, school phone number and postal address. St Paul's Primary School advises students and staff that they may be held accountable for the email they create and distribute using the network.

Websites

St Paul's Primary School may create, or have created, a website with the approval of the principal. These websites must be established and maintained in accordance with MACS policies and guidelines and relevant legislation.

Social networking

Provision of social networking for students must be related to an educational purpose. This is at the discretion of the principal.

Acceptable Use and Acceptable Use Agreements

Appropriate Communication:

Email and Internet must only be used for work/education related communication. Student use may include (but is not limited to):

- Use of St Paul's Google Site Page and its' links (intranet)
- Communication with staff and peers
- Internet browsing for research purposes and as directed by the teacher
- Staff use may include (but is not limited to):
- Accessing curriculum / education information and resources
- Notification of meeting arrangements
- Use of Google + Communities
- Sharing of resources – posting on intranet for shared use

Inappropriate Communication:

It would be deemed to be an inappropriate use of email or the internet if it was used:

- for purposes that are contrary to law or likely to contravene the law. This includes the laws of copyright, defamation, harassment, discrimination, (sex, race, and disability) and confidentiality, as well as all other laws, such as contempt of court, creation of contractual obligations, criminal laws and workplace relations law.
- to place the school in a potentially embarrassing or compromising position. Such activities might include engaging in commercial activities, product advertisement, political lobbying and the creation of false or misleading information.
- to download, store, create, send or print files or messages that are deemed to be profane, obscene, or that use language that offends or tends to degrade others.
- to engage in activities that might cause congestion of the network. For example, bulk emails should be sent sparingly as they can impact upon network performance.
- to disclose personal and/or confidential information.
- to send chain mail, gamble, join a mailing list or chat group, post messages to news groups or participate in online purchasing or selling.

- to intentionally send on computer viruses.
- to involve sending, forwarding, printing or receiving any material or data which does not comply with the school's policies and procedures or which is contrary to the school's best interests.

Procedures to be taken in the event of inappropriate communication:

Some examples of disciplinary action could include:

- A request to explain the circumstances surrounding the breach.
- If the breach occurred without good reason, written official warning will be included in the person's file.
- Temporary removal of internet privileges and use of digital technologies.
- Attendance at appropriate counselling sessions.
- Students should be advised that serious or repeated breaches of the policy may lead to loss of privileges.
- Staff should be advised that serious or repeated breaches of the policy may lead to termination of employment.

Students

St Paul's Primary School provides students and parents/guardians/carers with the following:

- a copy of St Paul's Primary School Acceptable Use Agreement
- a copy of this policy.

The Acceptable Use Agreement is provided in full for consideration by all signatories. The Agreement is to be signed by the student, parent/guardian/carer and school representative before the student is given access to, and use of, a school's internet, network services and devices.

Staff

Staff are required to use the internet and network services in accordance with this and other policies. St Paul's Primary School provides staff with the following:

- a copy of this policy
- a copy of the Acceptable User Agreement.

ST PAUL'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

Acceptable User Policy for the use of the Internet and Digital Technologies

Parents are asked to discuss this information with their children who are attending St Pauls Primary School. If parents wish their child to have access to computers, the internet and other digital technologies through the school's system, both the parent and the child need to sign the relevant part of this document and return it to school.

Student Agreement Years 3-6

I agree to use the internet and all digital technologies at our school in a responsible manner for purposes stated by my teacher. If I find myself in unsuitable locations, I will immediately click on the home or back button, turn off the monitor and inform my teacher.

I agree not to alter the computer settings unless directed by the teacher. I agree not to bring software to school, as they may contain unsuitable material or viruses, and the school does not have licences for these products.

When working on the internet, email and using digital technologies I will:

- keep my password secure and only use it myself.
- only work on the web for purposes specified by my teacher.
- follow the correct procedure for scanning USB and other memory cards.
- not give out information such as my surname, address, telephone number, or parents' work address/telephone number.
- never use a picture of myself or others without permission.
- support others by being respectful in how I communicate with them and never write or participate in online bullying (this includes forwarding messages and supporting others in harmful, inappropriate or hurtful online behaviour)
- follow school guidelines and procedures when preparing materials for publication on the intranet.
- always use respectful and appropriate language in my emails and word documents.
- not respond to any messages that are unpleasant or that make me feel uncomfortable in any way.
- It is not my fault if I get a message like that. I should tell my teacher about this message.
- not copy material from websites unless I have permission from the person who created the material. If I am unsure I will check with my teacher.

I understand that breaches of the rules will result in the loss of my internet rights and use of digital technologies for a period of time determined by my teacher and the Principal.

Student Name _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Agreement:

I have read and discussed the school's Internet and Digital Technologies Policy with my child.

I understand the school will provide adequate supervision and that steps have been taken to minimise risk of exposure to unsuitable material.

I consent to my child using the internet and email for educational purposes, in accordance with the Student Agreement above.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____ Date _____

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Student Agreement Prep – Year 2

The computer network at St Paul's Primary School has been provided for use as an educational tool in our school.

We are able to use computers to get information from around the world to help us learn.

- I will look after the computers, iPads and all of their parts.
- I will only use the computer or iPad when a teacher is present and I am supervised.
- I agree to follow all teacher instructions when using the computer or iPad.
- I will only read my own e-mail.
- I will make sure that the e-mail I send out shows politeness and respect as a member of St Paul's Primary School.
- I will always respect other children's computer work.
- I will only use my first name when communicating with other people.
- I will not give out my address or phone number or anyone else's personal details.
- I will tell my teacher if I find any information that makes me feel bad or uncomfortable.

I have discussed this with my parents and agree to follow all of these rules. I realise that if I break these rules, I will not be allowed to use the computers for a period of time discussed with the teacher.

Student Name _____

Student Signature _____

Date _____

Parent / Guardian Agreement

I have read and discussed the Internet and Digital Technologies Policy for Year Prep - 2 with my child _____

We agree that he/she must follow all of the rules and guidelines in this agreement to have access to computers and internet.

Parent / Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

ST PAUL'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

Acceptable User Policy for the use of the Internet and Digital Technologies

Staff Agreement

I agree that I have read and understand the expectations set out in the school's Internet and Digital Technologies Policy and St Paul's Code of Conduct.

I understand the responsibility I have as a staff member of St Paul's to maintain professional conduct and uphold privacy laws at all times.

I understand the legal responsibility that I have in regards to copyright laws and licensing agreements.

I understand that serious or repeated breaches of the policy may lead to termination of employment.

Staff Name _____

Staff Signature _____

Date _____

Related school policies

- Anti-Bullying Policy (including cyberbullying)
- Child safety and wellbeing policies
- Codes of conduct for students, parents and staff
- St Paul's Primary School Complaints Handling Policy
- Privacy Policy
- Social Media Policy: MACS employees
- Student Behaviour Policy

Responsible director	Director, Learning and Regional Services
Policy owner	General Manager, Student and Learning Technologies
Approving authority	MACS Executive Director
Assigned board committee	Education Policy and Strategy
Risk rating	High
Approval date	14 September 2022
Date of next review	April 2023

POLICY DATABASE INFORMATION	
Assigned framework	Care, Safety and Welfare of Students
Related documents	ICT Acceptable User Agreement – Staff ICT Acceptable User Agreement – Students
Superseded documents	ICT Acceptable Use Policy – v1.0 – 2021
New policy	