

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY USE BY STUDENTS

Mission Statement

In the spirit of John XXIII, Mary Ward and Ignatius Loyola, we seek to be people of competence, conscience and compassion who are committed to God and the service of others.

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.

Principles

- This policy reflects the teachings and educational goals of John XXIII College as a Catholic school. Access to ICT shall be balanced with all elements of the College curriculum.
- The College has a duty of care to ensure policies and practices are effective in ensuring appropriate access by students to ICT.
- All written, graphic, audio and other materials created, produced, communicated, stored or accessed on the College's ICT, including emails, are the property of the College, and as such, are subject to monitoring by the school.
- 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 College as set out in this Policy.
- The College's use of ICT by students reflects the developmental stages of students.
- The use of College 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 College rules or policy, or otherwise be inappropriate or offensive (as outlined at Procedure 2 of this policy).
- As parents are the prime educators of their child, they shall be informed of the College policy and encouraged to assist in facilitating its implementation.

Definitions

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 in the estimation of others.

Harassment, Discrimination and Bullying means unlawful behaviour as defined in the Catholic Education Commission Policy statement 2-C4 'Harassment, Discrimination and Bullying'.

Procedures

1. John XXIII College is committed to ensuring that all students are made aware of the fact that unacceptable use of ICT (e.g. email and internet) within the College environment will not be tolerated under any circumstances and that disciplinary action will be taken against any student who breaches this policy. To this end, the Policy will be brought regularly to the attention of students.
2. John XXIII College has identified acceptable and unacceptable use of ICT and is committed to regularly updating this policy.
 - 2.1. **Acceptable use**

Acceptable use may include but is not limited to:

 - gathering and disseminating appropriate information for educational or related purposes
 - working on collaborative projects and resource sharing, and
 - any other tasks that are for educational or related purposes or support and promote the school and its ideals.
 - 2.2. **Unacceptable use**
 - Accessing networks without proper authorisation
 - Transmitting or deliberately accessing and/or receiving material that is inappropriate or offensive. Inappropriate or offensive material includes but is not limited to: threatening, sexually explicit or harassing materials; offensive, defamatory or discriminatory materials; or material that may be harmful either physically or emotionally, including bullying or harassment within and outside the school
 - Unauthorised disclosure or communication of information concerning any password, identifying code or other confidential information without permission
 - Interfering with or disrupting network users, services or equipment. Disruptions include but are not limited to: unsolicited advertising, intentional propagation of viruses in any form, and using the network to make unauthorised entry to any other machine accessible via the school's network (i.e. 'hacking').
 - 2.3. **Unlawful use**

Unlawful use may include but is not limited to:

 - defamation of someone or an organisation in an email or webpage sent or produced using the school's ICT
 - infringement of copyright laws, i.e. reproduction or adaptation of copyrighted material by downloading and further disseminating the material
 - sending emails that could constitute sexual discrimination or sexual harassment
 - displaying, storing or accessing sexually offensive material on the school's ICT, e.g. screen savers
 - sending emails which are discriminatory on the basis of race, sex, gender, disability or age, and
 - undertake activities which breach State and Federal legislation.
3. Unacceptable use of ICT constitutes a serious breach of College 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 application of other sanctions.

4. Unlawful and/or serious misuse of ICT may result in the College involving the Police or other government agencies.
5. 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 College curriculum.
6. This policy shall be made available to the wider College community through the College website, or in a hard copy format upon request.

References

Related Documents

Important Statues 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

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)

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.