

## 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 Mary's Catholic 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 Mary's Catholic 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 Mary's Catholic 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 Mary's Catholic 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.

## Rationale

St Mary's provides students and staff with a range of devices, Wi-Fi and online tools for investigating, collaborating, communicating and creating. Devices currently available to students and staff include iPads, Chromebooks, laptops (both Mac and Windows based machines), digital recording devices and coding tools.

Google Apps for Education (GAFE) accounts are issued to staff and students in Prep to Year 6 at St. Mary's which provides users with access to a high quality suite of free apps, access to school files inside and outside of school (as long as there is internet connectivity), capacity to collaborate with multiple users and "paperless" transfer of work. Though Google accounts are only available to users who are 13 years or older, Google Apps for Education accounts are available to younger students with Parent/Guardian permission and data is stored in servers that follow the Australian Privacy Principles.

St Mary's recognises the need for students to be safe and responsible users of digital technologies. We are committed to being an eSmart school and utilise the Alannah and Madeline Framework, as well as other key providers such as Cyber Safety Project and Australia's independent regulator for online safety eSafety Commissioner. This provides students with explicit teaching, active learning and reflection about safe and responsible use of digital technology systems, devices and equipment which is communicated in partnership with parents/guardians.

Students also use Seesaw as evidence of their learning and upload examples of work to show progression of learning. The privacy policy of this platform can be located <https://web.seesaw.me/privacy-policy> .

All activities online leave some form of “digital footprint” and throughout the school year and in term Inquiry units, different aspects of cyber safety are documented in planning. As part of the digital curriculum, students explore the concept of ‘Digital Footprints’, what is personal information and how users can remain safe when online.

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 Mary’s Catholic Primary School in accordance with legal and moral requirements and expectations.

## Scope

This policy applies to members of the St Mary’s Catholic 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 Mary's Catholic 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 Mary's Catholic 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 Mary's Catholic 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 Mary's Catholic Primary School will be determined by the principal and may vary as educational and administrative purposes change.

Students and staff at St Mary's Catholic 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 Mary's Catholic 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 Mary's Catholic 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 Mary's Catholic Primary School against any student or staff member is who 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 Mary's Catholic Primary School.

### **Duty of Care**

St. Mary's Catholic Primary School uses the uses the eSmart framework to align explicit Victorian Curriculum learning areas and capabilities about eSafety. Learning sequences are to be planned, taught and re-visited throughout the year by teachers. Explicit links to the rights and responsibilities of Digital Technology and online safety are also linked and taught within our Resilience, Rights and Responsibilities (RRRR) project and our Positive Behaviour Learning expectations.

Staff are to be actively supervising students when using digital technology in the classroom. Online incidents of concern must be managed in accordance with other school-related policies and the Response resource toolkit from the eSafety Commissioner.

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/educators/toolkit-for-schools/respond>

St. Mary's Catholic Primary School will provide instruction to students in online personal safety issues, including appropriate sites, stranger danger, cyberbullying and scams. St. Mary's Catholic 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. Mary's Catholic 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. Mary's Catholic 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. Mary's Catholic Primary School advises students and staff that they may be held accountable for the email they create and distribute using the network.

### **Websites**

St. Mary's Catholic 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 Agreements

User Agreements at St. Mary's Catholic Primary School are to ensure staff, students and parents accept the rights and responsibilities of safe equipment use and online activity.

These include:

- [P-2 Network, Internet and Device User Agreement](#) (sent via Compass for parent/student approval)
- [3-6 Network, Internet and Device User Agreement](#) (sent via Compass for parent/student approval)
- [Staff Device User Agreement](#) (sent via Google Form on Compass)
- [Google Apps for Education Parent Permission](#) (sent via Compass for parent approval)

## Students

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

- a copy of St. Mary's Catholic Primary School Acceptable Use Agreement/s (see above)
- 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.

To ensure student confidentiality, permission is requested by parents/caregives for the child to have their photograph/video and/or work published in particular forms online. The [Photo, Video and Work Permission](#) is sent via Compass at the beginning of the year, with information updated via student profiles on Compass.

## Staff

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

- a copy of this policy
- a copy of the Acceptable User Agreement (see above)

Staff must also ensure it is their responsibility to make all reasonable efforts to ensure that confidential information does not fall into the wrong hands. Care should be taken when electronically communicating confidential information or documents or other sensitive material over external lines, particularly over the internet. Where the information is particularly controversial or confidential, it should not be sent electronically.

St. Mary holds copyright in all works created by the employee during the course of their employment.

Staff must not make any software copy without a prior, good faith determination that such copying is in fact permissible. For example, it is a violation to make more copies of licensed software than the license allows, or to download, use or distribute pirated software.

Staff are not to download software onto the school's system without the proper approval or authorisation. Not only does this breach policy, it also exposes the network to viruses and may

overload computing resources. This includes screen savers, applications on iPads and other software and shareware available for free on the Internet into St Mary's.

## Related school policies

- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Child safety policies
- Codes of conduct for students, parents and staff
- Data Breach Policy
- Managing Complaints and Grievances Policy
- Privacy Policy
- Social Media Policy for staff
- Student Behaviour Policy