

## 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 Our Lady of the Southern Cross because digital information and communication are important mediums for contemporary learning and teaching and administration. Within Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (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 Our Lady of the Southern Cross 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 Our Lady of the Southern Cross are expected to respect the rights and privacy of all persons. They are called upon to respect the dignity of every human person. Our Lady of the Southern Cross, 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.

Our Lady of the Southern Cross Primary School believes in a Digital Citizenship model for supporting safe and responsible use of the internet in a teaching and learning context. A vital part of fostering this culture is the support that is provided to students in their learning by those around them. One of the most important parts of this guidance is the modelling of good digital citizenship skills that young people observe in their day to day interactions.

Digital technologies, social media, and the promotion of learning in a digital world lead to challenges for educators and those involved in education. This policy outlines best-practice on the way technologies are used to promote learning.

Our Lady of the Southern Cross Primary School defines a successful digital citizen as an individual who;

- uses technologies to participate in educational, cultural, and economic activities
- uses and develops critical thinking skills in cyberspace
- is literate in the language, symbols, and texts of digital technologies
- is aware of technology challenges and can manage them effectively
- uses technology to relate to others in positive, meaningful ways
- demonstrates honesty and integrity in their use of technology
- respects the concepts of privacy and freedom of speech in a digital world
- contributes and actively promotes the values of digital citizenship

This policy outlines the appropriate use and management of digital technologies such as the internet and network services at Our Lady of the Southern Cross in accordance with legal and moral requirements and expectations.

## Scope

This policy applies to members of the Our Lady of the Southern Cross] 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 Our Lady of the Southern Cross.

**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 Our Lady of the Southern Cross 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 Our Lady of the Southern Cross 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 Our Lady of the Southern Cross will be determined by the principal and may vary as educational and administrative purposes change.

Students and staff at Our Lady of the Southern Cross 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 Our Lady of the Southern Cross 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 Our Lady of the Southern Cross 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 Our Lady of the Southern Cross 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 Our Lady of the Southern Cross.

### Duty of Care

Our Lady of the Southern Cross will provide instruction to students in online personal safety issues, including inappropriate sites, stranger danger, cyberbullying and scams. Our Lady of the Southern Cross will prepare staff to deal with these issues.

Cybersafety is taught specifically at the beginning of each school year in all learning groups. Resources are accessed from:

- eSmart
- Cyber Smart Kids Quiz
- eSafety Homepage
- Kids Helpline
- Raising Children - Internet Safety

Digital Technologies is also taught as a specialist subject. Our parents are invited to attend many educational sessions, as well as information that is sent to them directly via Class Dojo app; at an individual level, learning group level and school level.

Parents are also able to see all student learning assignments via the Google Learning Classrooms.

Our school is involved in many local community organisations that have a consistent message about the smart use of technology; Alannah & Madeline Foundation. Student and parent workshops are offered biannually across Prep - Year 6.

## 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. a principal, a regional 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 to be activated, and where appropriate, passwords are to be used by staff and students of Our Lady of the Southern Cross . Firewalls are to be maintained. The management of system protocols and configurations are the responsibility of the staff authorised by the school or MACS. Non-authorized 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 Our Lady of the Southern Cross 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. Our Lady of the Southern Cross advises students and staff that they may be held accountable for the email they create and distribute using the network.

### Websites

Our Lady of the Southern Cross may create 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 – to be developed by each school

**Drafting notes:** A student declaration outlining the conduct expected of students when using digital technologies. This should be aligned to the school's student behaviour management policy. **Acknowledgement** section for students and parents to declare their understanding of the Acceptable Usage Agreement by providing their signatures.

### Students

Our Lady of the Southern Cross provides students and parents/guardians with the following:

- a copy of Our Lady of the Southern Cross 's 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 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. Our Lady of the Southern Cross provides staff with the following:

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

## 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.