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 MacKillop Primary School 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 St. Mary MacKillop 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 MacKillop 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 MacKillop 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 v

Definitions

Policy

Internet and Network Access

Access to internet and network services are provided by MACS to staff and students of St. Mary MacKillop 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 MacKillop Primary School will be determined by the principal and may vary as educational and administrative purposes change.

Students and staff at St. Mary MacKillop 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 MacKillop 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 MacKillop 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. Mary MacKillop Primary School against any student or staff member is who found to be inappropriately using

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 St. Mary MacKillop Primary School. 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-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 MacKillop 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 MacKillop 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 MacKillop Primary School may create, of 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 must discretion of the principal.

Acceptable Use Agreements – to be developed by each school

A student declaration outlining the conduct expected of students when using digital technologies. This

bsite with   £   he

Staff

Staff are required to use the internet and network services in accordance with this and other policies. St. Mary MacKillop Primary School 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.