



MacKillop College

Policy: Digital Technologies

Introduction

The MacKillop College community belongs to a generation whose world is significantly influenced by growing technological access and advancements. These changes influence the ways in which students and staff interact, collaborate, and learn with and from one another. There exists an obligation to empower the learning community to connect with local and global learning communities through innovative and relevant eLearning strategies and contemporary Information Communication Technologies (ICT).

MacKillop College seeks to inspire its Catholic school community to strive for personal and collaborative excellence while supporting the dignity and freedom of all humanity. This inspiration is drawn from the words of Pope John Paul II who said:

... "It falls to them (the young people) and to everyone to search out ways in which the new systems of data conversion and exchange can be used to assist in promoting greater universal justice, greater respect for human rights, a healthy development for all individuals and peoples, and freedoms for a fully human life" (May, 1989).

Principles

MacKillop College acknowledges that:

- the present times are characterised by increasingly rapid technological change which directly impacts upon the perception of a rich educational environment in terms of time, space, access and collaboration
- the world is increasingly being shaped by our ability to acquire, communicate, access and manipulate information using ICT and to respond creatively to emerging technologies (Learning in an online world: Pedagogy, Ministerial Council Education Employment Training and Youth Affairs, MCEETYA, 2005)
- technologies need to be matched to pedagogical intentions and learners' diverse needs
- members of the College community should be able to engage in and promote a safe, inclusive and supportive digital environment

Objectives

MacKillop College aims to provide:

- a safe and secure digital environment
- access to contemporary digital technologies that will enhance teaching and learning
- a seamless and robust ICT environment that provides efficiencies in both curriculum and administrative systems
- support for parent/guardians, students and staff to understand the importance of the safe and responsible use of digital technologies, including the potential issues that surround their use and strategies that support the countering of those issues

Implementation

i) Principal commitment

The Principal is responsible for ensuring that:

- the objectives of this policy are integrated into practice
- the College endeavours to provide a safe, secure and robust digital environment

ii) Staff Commitment

Staff are responsible for ensuring that they:

- comply with all school policies, procedures and guidelines pertaining to the school's digital environment
- endeavour to educate our students to be safe and responsible users of digital technologies
- are proactive in the supervision of students who are using digital technologies
- respond to issues or incidents that impact, or have the potential to impact, on the wellbeing of our students in a timely and sensitive manner in accordance with College procedures

This policy works in conjunction with the following documents:

1. Bullying and Harassment Policy
2. Bullying & Harassment Policy (Digital & Social Networking)
3. MacKillop College Digital Technologies Protocol: Staff Acceptable Use
4. MacKillop College Digital Technologies Protocol: Student Acceptable Use

Policy last reviewed: November 2012

Signature

Rory Kennedy
(Principal)

Date: _____