

Yidarra Catholic Primary School



INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY USE BY PARENTS

RATIONALE

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has been introduced into Yidarra to enable access to email and the Internet and other telecommunication devices. 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.

DEFINITION

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) means all computer hardware, software, systems and technology (including the Internet and email) and telecommunication devices in facilities that may be used or accessed from a school campus or connected to a school's communication network.

PRINCIPLES

Yidarra Catholic Primary School is committed to ensuring that all parents are aware that unacceptable use of ICT (eg email and internet) within the school environment will not be tolerated under any circumstances and that unlawful action may result in the involvement of police or other government agencies against parents who breach this policy.

PROCEDURES

1. Yidarra Catholic Primary School shall identify acceptable and unacceptable use of ICT and is committed to regularly updating this policy.

1.1 Acceptable use:

Acceptable use may include but is not limited to:

- facilitating, gathering and disseminating appropriate information for educational or related purposes;
- encouraging collaborative projects and resource sharing;
- fostering parent skills and ICT
- fostering positively
- any other tasks that are for school or related purposes or support and positively and accurately promote the school and its ideals.

1.2 Unacceptable use:

Unacceptable use would include but is not limited to:

- 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, 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.
- breaching copyright laws, including software copyright and reverse engineering of software or other laws governing intellectual property

1.3 Unlawful use of ICT:

Unlawful use may include but is not limited to:

- defamation of any member of the school community in an email or webpage or social media application (Facebook, Twitter) sent or produced using the school's ICT or any device brought into the school;
- 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;
- sending emails which are discriminatory on the basis of race, sex, gender, disability or age
- undertake activities which breach State And Federal Laws Pertaining To ICT.

2. Unacceptable and/or unlawful use of ICT may constitute misconduct and/ or serious misconduct and may warrant further action.

3. All social media internet based applications that allow users to share information and create communities (ie: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram) which make reference to, or transfer school related information, must be made accessible to the school Principal.

STATE AND FEDERAL LAWS PERTAINING TO ICT

Important statutes which are applicable to parental use of school ICT include:

Copyright Act 1968 (Cth)

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, and
- 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)

Parents must not use a school 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. Parents should be aware for their own protection that people who deal with such material commit an offence.

Criminal Code (WA)

Parents 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 electric communication eg 'hacking' or infecting computer systems with a virus, are illegal.

Privacy Act 1988 (Cth)

Parents should respect that the personal information of others is private. This Act covers the collection, use and disclosure, quality and security of personal information.