

St Roch's Parish Primary School

Information and Communication Technology Acceptable Usage Policy



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 Roch's Parish 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 Roch's 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 Roch's are expected to respect the rights and privacy of all persons. They are called upon to respect the dignity of every human person. St Roch's, 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 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.

At St Roch's we seek to develop in our students a sound understanding of technology operations and concepts. We believe that technology can be transformative and we encourage our students to use technology to design, create, problem solve and collaborate.

All students and families complete a Digital Technologies Pledge agreement annually to ensure St Roch's provides regular cyber safe learning to students, staff and families. The Victorian Curriculum guides planning for Digital and Design Technologies and a STEAM Specialist supports Classroom teachers from Prep - Year 6.

Students have access to a wide range of technologies including, and not limited to, Interactive Flat Panels, iPads, Chromebooks, Makey Makeys, LEGO Robotics equipment.

St Roch's uses a range of apps included in the Google platform to support and enable students to learn in the digital world whilst maintaining their privacy and safety in accordance with relevant legislation requirements.

This policy outlines the appropriate use and management of digital technologies such as the internet and network services at St Roch's in accordance with legal and moral requirements and expectations.

Scope

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

Students and staff at St Roch's 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 Roch's 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 Roch's 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 Roch's 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 St Roch's.

Duty of Care

St Roch's will provide instruction to students in online personal safety issues, including inappropriate sites, stranger danger, cyberbullying and scams. St Roch's will prepare staff to deal with these issues.

St Roch's educates our students to be safe, responsible and ethical users of digital technology by:

- learning about online personal safety issues including and not limited to
 - Appropriate sites
 - Stranger danger
 - Cyberbullying
- signed Digital Technologies Pledge annually by both parent and child
- cybersafety professional learning for staff; and
- cybersafety Parent and Student Information sessions.

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 Roch's. 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 St Roch's 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 Roch's advises students and staff that they may be held accountable for the email they create and distribute using the network.

Websites

St Roch's 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. Please refer to the Social Media Policy.

Acceptable Use Agreements – to be developed by each school

At St Roch’s we use ICT in a safe, legal and responsible way. We provide students and parents with a Digital Technologies Pledge annually. With the support of the Digital Technologies Leader, Classroom teachers discuss these agreements with reference to the schools expectations and Code of Co-operation.

Students

St Roch’s provides students and parents/guardians with the following:

- a copy of [St Roch’s ICT 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. St Roch’s provides staff with the following:

- a copy of this policy
- a copy of the Staff Handbook and Child Safety Code of Conduct both referring to both referring to professional expectations online
- Staff have access to school purchased laptops. Devices are maintained and used at both school and home. All devices are regularly updated with both software and apps by the ICT technician in consultation with the Digital Technologies Leader.

Related School Policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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.
Date of Ratification	
Date of Review	
Source	MACS