Information & Communication Technology
Policy

Purpose

The purpose of this Policy is to ensure that all use of Information, Communications and Technology (ICT) resources are legal, ethical and consistent with the aims, values and objectives of Catholic Education. Our school is a community of learners which values the safety and education of children. It also has a wellbeing obligation to the school community through antidiscrimination and harassment laws.

Rationale

In our learning community at Christ the King Primary School we strive to create successful learners who are empowered to be creative, confident, independent and responsible participants in our world.
We promote equality and appreciate individual differences.
(Christ the King Primary School Learning Essence Statement 2012)

Members of, and visitors to the Christ the King Primary School learning community share the responsibility to operate within an online environment responsibly, safely and ethically. We believe that the use of Information & Communication Technology is:

- **Fundamental to contemporary Learning and Teaching.**

Successful learners are creative and productive users of technology, as a foundation for success in all learning areas. In the Australian Curriculum, students develop ICT capability as they learn to use ICT effectively and appropriately to access, create and communicate information and ideas, solve problems and work collaboratively in all learning areas at school, and in their lives beyond school. The capability involves contemporary learners to make the most of the digital technologies available to them, adapting to new ways of doing things as technologies evolve and limiting the risks to themselves and others in a digital environment.

As stated in the Australian Curriculum, "The Melbourne Declaration on the Educational Goals for Young Australians (MCEETYA 2008) recognises that in a digital age, and with rapid and continuing changes in the ways that people share, use, develop and communicate with ICT, [learners] need to be highly skilled in its use." (ACARA, 2012)

We believe that all members of our School Community need the knowledge, skills and confidence to make ICT work for them in a knowledge based economy within a technologically sophisticated society now and into the future.

- **Vital to our mission as Catholic educators to help students become responsible digital citizens.**

"The revolution taking place in communications media and in information technologies represents a great and thrilling challenge; May we respond to that challenge with fresh energy and imagination as we seek to share with others the beauty of God." (Pope Francis, Message for 48th World Communications Day, 2014)

The use of Information and Communications Technologies in Catholic Education has a further role; that of bringing the Gospel to life.

It follows that there exists a Christian way of being present in the digital world: this takes the form of a communication which is honest and open, responsible and respectful of others. To proclaim the Gospel through the new media means not only to insert expressly religious content into different media platforms, but also to witness consistently, in one's own digital profile and in the way one communicate, choices, preferences and judgements that are fully consistent with the Gospel, even when it is not spoken of specifically. (Benedict XVI, 2011)

Digital Citizenship is a concept which helps teachers, technology leaders and parents to understand that all users should know how to use technology appropriately.

Digital Citizenship involves preparing all technology users to be responsible and appropriate in their use. As members of a digital society we build learning relationships within the global and local community and create authentic opportunities for us to learn from and with others.

Goals:

To *prepare the students of Christ the King to take their place in a constantly changing digital world:*

- Through reinforcing the values of respect, responsibility, justice, honesty, trust and inclusion when using ICT both within and without the school environment.
- Through developing students ICT capability so they may effectively and appropriately access, create and communicate information and ideas, solve problems and work collaboratively in all learning areas at school, and in their lives beyond school.
- Through developing responsible, safe and ethical practices when using ICT both within and without the school environment.

Implementation:

To assist in the achievement of the stated goals:

- Staff need to be appropriately supported in developing their own knowledge and skills in the area of ICT.
- Classroom structures and routines need to be developed to facilitate equity for students in exposure to, and use of ICT.
- Students need to be supported in the development of their capabilities in ICT through appropriate focussed teaching and time to practise and develop the necessary knowledge and skills.
- There needs to be a regular review of ICT hardware to facilitate appropriate maintenance of current equipment and purchasing of new equipment.
- There needs to be a regular review and updating of software to support a contemporary and relevant curriculum.

Review of the policy

This policy will be reviewed every 2 years by the ICT coordinator and School Leadership team in consultation with all staff.