



SOCIAL NETWORKS POLICY

Rationale:

- Social networking using sites such as Facebook and Twitter is a world-wide phenomenon which will involve the vast majority of our students and their families. Consequently, it is highly appropriate that our school teaches students how to engage in social networking effectively, responsibly and safely.

Aims:

- For all students to become familiar, competent and responsible users of mainstream social networking sites whilst learning the skills to maintain their safety, security and privacy at all times.

Implementation:

- Social networking refers to internet-based online social communications sites such as Facebook and Twitter
- Social network sites provide powerful opportunities for individuals to connect with friends and strangers throughout the world, but at the same time, can expose the unwary to hazards and dangers that users must proactively avoid.
- Social networking is a world-wide phenomenon with which the vast majority of students and their families will engage. Consequently, students must be skilled and informed about the advantages, disadvantages, opportunities and potential dangers associated with social networks.
- Social networking will form part of our school's curriculum, including studies of Facebook and Twitter and similar mainstream networking sites.
- Students will learn how to protect their privacy and maintain security, and how to use proper and appropriate internet protocols when communicating.
- Students will be informed about the potential dangers of online social networking, and gain experiences in identifying and eliminating potentially dangerous behaviour.
- Students will be made aware of cyber-bullying, its impact on others, how to avoid and respond to cyber-bullying, and the legal implications and consequences of cyber-bullying.
- Our school will provide social networking information for parents through our Cyber Safety Program.
- Students found to be using the school's technologies or internet services inappropriately for any purpose can expect to be dealt with in a manner consistent with our Student Code of Conduct including prohibited internet access.
- Staff members will not engage in social networks with students other than as part of the educational program. They will not '*friend*' students on personal social networks.

Evaluation:

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle.

This policy ratified by School Council Date: November 2016