



Mary MacKillop College South Gippsland

Cyber Safety Policy

The Hazard – Cyber Safety

Cyber safety refers to the safe and responsible use of information and communication technologies. This includes privacy and information protection, respectful communication and knowing how to get help to deal with online issues.

Common cyber safety issues include:

- **Cyber bullying** is the ongoing abuse of power to threaten or harm another person through the use of technology (Refer to our Bullying Prevention and Intervention Policy);
- **Sexting** is the sending or posting of provocative or sexual photos, messages or videos online;
- **Identity theft** is the fraudulent assumption of a person's private information for their personal gain. Students are exposed to these risks as they are often unaware of the safety issues surrounding their digital footprint; and
- **Predatory behaviour** where a student is targeted online by a stranger who attempts to arrange a face to face meeting, in an attempt to engage in inappropriate behaviour.

Cyber safety issues most commonly occur through a student's use of their own technology devices (e.g. smart phone, tablet, laptop, home computer).

Safe use of technology whilst at college is managed through our Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Policy.

Mary MacKillop College's Policy

Mary MacKillop College recognises its duty to students to provide a safe and positive learning environment which includes the responsible use of information and communication technologies.

It is our policy that:

- Cyber safety be managed through a 'whole of college community' approach involving students, staff and parents/carers;
- Cyber safety and cyber bullying prevention strategies be implemented within the college on a continuous basis with a focus on teaching age appropriate skills and strategies to empower staff, students and parents/carers to recognise cyber safety issues and respond appropriately;
- Cyber bullying response strategies be tailored to the circumstances of each incident; and
- Our bullying prevention, intervention and cyber safety strategies are reviewed on an annual basis against best practice.

Implementation

This policy is implemented through a combination of:

- Staff training;
- Student and parent/carer education and information;
- Effective incident reporting procedures;
- Effective management of cyber safety incidents when reported;
- The creation of a 'no bullying' culture within the college community;

- Effective record keeping procedures; and
- Initiation of corrective actions where necessary.

Discipline for Breach of Policy

Where a staff member breaches this policy Mary MacKillop College may take disciplinary action, including in the case of serious breaches, summary dismissal.

Related Policies

- Bullying Prevention and Intervention Policy
- Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Policy