



St Patrick's College, Launceston

CATHOLIC CO-EDUCATION YEARS 7-12

Cyber Safety

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.

St Patrick College's Policy

St Patrick's 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.

Cyber Safety Strategies

St Patrick's College recognises that the implementation of whole of college cyber safety strategies is the most effective way of minimising risks related to our students engaging in online activity.

The following initiatives form part of our overall cyber safety strategy within the college:

- A structured curriculum that provides age appropriate information and skills relating to cyber safety (including cyber bullying) to students over the course of the academic year;

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- Education, training and professional development of staff in cyber safety strategies;
- Regular provision of information to parents/carers to raise awareness of cyber safety as a college community issue. This will equip them to recognise signs of cyber safety risks, as well as to provide them with clear paths for raising any concerns they may have relating to cyber safety and/or cyber bullying directly with the college;
- Promotion of a supportive environment that encourages the development of positive relationships and communication between staff, students and parents/carers;
- Promotion of responsible bystander behaviour amongst students, staff and parents/carers (this may occur where a bystander observes inappropriate online behaviour either being perpetrated by, or targeted at, a student);
- Reporting of cyber safety incidents is encouraged and made easy through the clear communication of persons to whom students can report, and to encourage students to be cognisant of trusted adults with whom they can discuss concerns and make reports;
- Records of reported cyber safety incidents are maintained and analysed, in order to identify systemic issues and to implement targeted prevention strategies where appropriate;
- Cyber safety strategies are included in students' college diaries; and
- Promotion of student cyber safety awareness by participating in relevant cyber safety related events.

Workers' Responsibility

All workers are responsible to:

- Model appropriate online behaviour at all times; and
- Acknowledge the right of parents to speak with college authorities if they believe their child is being bullied.

Signage

Cyber safety posters are displayed strategically around the college.

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 culture that understands that cyber bullying is not only disciplinary issue, but a criminal act;
- Effective record keeping procedures; and
- Initiation of corrective actions where necessary.

Discipline for Breach of Policy

Where a staff member breaches this policy St Patrick's College will take disciplinary action, including in the case of serious breaches, summary dismissal.