



Good Counsel Parish Schools Board POLICY DOCUMENT

Good Counsel Parish Schools Board (incorporating Good Counsel Primary School, Good Counsel College and St. Rita's Primary School)	
Cybersafety Policy	
Policy Domain: Managing Relationships	Adopted: 14 October 2014 To be reviewed: 12 months
STATEMENT Good Counsel Schools have a statutory obligation to maintain a safe physical and emotional environment, and a responsibility to consult with the community in order to benefit student learning outcomes, and the effective operation of the school. Good Counsel Schools will develop and maintain rigorous and effective cybersafety practices which aim to maximise the benefits of ICT and the Internet for student learning and effective operation of the schools, while minimising and managing any risks. These practices will aim to not only maintain a cybersafe school environment, but also to address the need for students and other members of the school community, to receive education about safe and responsible use of present and developing information and communication technologies.	
CONTEXT The application/use of digital technologies (ICTs) within the Good Counsel Schools will reflect: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• care and respect for the learning needs of students.• the highest standard of accountability and sensitivity to human rights and relationships.• the provision of a technological work environment that enhances the dignity of students and staff and protects them from exploitation and harassment.• the need to provide a caring and protective environment for the school and the school community. <i>"Ask and it will be given to you, seek and you will find, knock and the door will be opened to you." (Matthew 7.7) The scripture speaks of trusting but encourages initiatives to be taken.</i>	

RATIONALE

To develop a cybersafe school environment that recognises the presence of these technologies in the learning environment:

The Good Counsel Schools have the dual responsibility to maximise the benefits of these technologies, while at the same time minimising the potential disadvantages and managing the associated risks. This will be done while recognising that these technologies may enable anti-social behaviour and activity and the distribution of inappropriate matter; facilitate or enable anti-social behaviour, inappropriate and illegal material and activities.

PROCEDURES

The Good Counsel Parish schools will develop Cybersafety procedures respective to the context of a parish primary school and a parish secondary college in accordance with this policy and following the guidelines and procedures set out by the Catholic Education Diocese of Cairns for this area.

For specific Cybersafety Procedures please refer to Primary and Secondary School Procedures and the Catholic Education Website.

DEFINITIONS

1. 'ICT' is an abbreviation for 'Information and Communication Technologies'.
2. 'Cybersafety' is the safe and responsible use of the internet and ICT, including mobile devices.
3. 'School ICT' refers to the school's computer network, internet access, computers, and other ICT equipment / devices as outlined in (4) below.
4. ICT includes but is not limited to, computers (such as desktops, laptops, PDAs), storage devices (such as USB and flash memory devices, CDs, DVDs, floppy disks, iPods, MP3 players), cameras (such as video, digital, webcams), all types of mobile phones, video and audio players / receivers (such as portable CD and DVD players), Gaming Consoles, and any other, similar, technologies as they come in to use.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- The *Criminal Code (Cth)*, section 474.17 notes that it is an offence for a person to use ‘a carriage service to menace, harass or cause offence’.
- The *Criminal Code (Cth)*, section 474.15 notes that it is an offence for a person to use ‘a carriage service to make a threat’.
- The *Criminal Code (Cth)* 10.6 notes that it is an offence for ‘a person to knowingly or recklessly use a telecommunications service supplied by a carrier in such a way as would be regarded by reasonable persons being, in all the circumstances, offensive’.
- The *Criminal Code (Qld)* chapter 33A (sections 359A to 359B) of the Criminal Code deals with the offence of stalking. This includes publishing or transmitting of offensive material and sending electronic messages with the intention of causing physical or mental harm.
- The sending of images is also covered by various State and Commonwealth laws that prevent the publication of material that is objectionable, unclassified of unsuitable for minors.
- All Other related documents as outlined by Catholic Education Services Cairns.