



**INFANT JESUS SCHOOL**  
**Information and Communication Technology at Infant Jesus**

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**RATIONALE**

"...in establishing and conducting Catholic schools one must keep modern developments in mind" (Vatican Council II, p. 734).

The Catholic Education Commission of Western Australia has a responsibility, in co-operation with schools and their communities, to make policies that promote Catholic education in accordance with authentic Catholic principles.

In accordance with the teachings of the Catholic Church, the practice of communication regardless of the medium, must be honest and reflect the highest standard of accountability and sensitivity to human rights and relationships.

As a privilege and gift from God, new learning needs to be accompanied by the development of a matching sense of social responsibility (Mandate, para 72).

The need for primary schools to incorporate technology into the curriculum, stems from the demands of our society. They are a powerful educational resource and a unique instrument of learning, allowing for student participation and interaction.

**Definitions**

- 'Information and Communication Technology (ICT),' means all computer hardware, software, systems, data, digital communications and technology including the internet, email and social media.
- Defamation, is a written or verbal statement that tends to lower another person's reputation in the eyes of ordinary members of the community, or leads people to ridicule, avoid or despise the person, or injures the person's reputation, business, trade or profession. There are a number of defences available against a claim of defamation including that the statement is true, or an honest opinion on a matter of public interest.
- Harassment, Discrimination and Bullying means unlawful behaviour as defined in the Catholic Education Commission policy statement 2-C4 Harassment, Unlawful Discrimination, Victimisation and Bullying.
- Social media refers to internet based applications that allow users to share information and create communities (eg Facebook, Twitter).

**SCOPE OF THE POLICY**

This Policy relates to the use of all Information and Communication Technology and includes (but not restricted to) internet, computers, iPads, mobile phones, associated networks, networking equipment, corporate systems including email and social network systems and any other emerging technologies not listed.

It applies to all employees, students and parents. It is not intended to be exhaustive and cannot anticipate all current and future uses of ICT. If any person is unsure about interpreting the Policy, he/she is responsible for discussing this with the Principal as soon as possible.

Infant Jesus School expects responsible choices with the use of ICT and attempts to ensure all understand the implications of their choices. Responsibility for appropriate use of the technologies lies with the user.

## PURPOSE

A Catholic school is committed to promoting the Christian development of each student as a person is formed in the image of God. The values of the school develop respect for self, respect for others, respect for property and self-discipline. Together with parents, the school seeks to inculcate the pursuit of knowledge and the intellectual development of each student.

The nature of the work at Infant Jesus School is entirely embedded in the delivery of high quality educational services to students. The use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) contributes to the broadening and availability of learning and teaching options and enhances the efficiency and effectiveness of educational administration and policy.

Infant Jesus School endeavours to provide all staff and students with the skills, tools and mind set to achieve success in a rapidly changing technological and information rich world. We aim to develop our staff, students and parents into responsible digital citizens who are able to interact collaboratively as members of the connected global community. By integrating Information and Communication Technologies into all areas of the Australian Curriculum we aim to provide powerful and effective tools to engage students, empower teachers and involve parents in developing lifelong learners.

The general principles underpinning this Policy are to:

- Maintain an ethical, safe and supportive working and learning environment.
- Support Students, Staff and Parents in making informed decisions about the use of ICTs.
- Protect the privacy of staff, students and families.
- Maintain appropriate accountability to monitor the use of ICT by staff and children.
- Ensure that ICT in the school is used in a proper and legal manner by all in the community.
- Ensure that Intellectual Property, developed under the auspice of Infant Jesus School, is afforded the same protective rights as that which applies to physical property of the school.

## Section 2 - Students

*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 (Information Communications Technology), young people need to be highly skilled in its use. To participate in a knowledge-based economy and to be empowered within a technologically sophisticated society now and into the future, students need the knowledge, skills and confidence to make ICT work for them at school, at home, at work and in their communities.

Infant Jesus School has developed a BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) 1-1 iPad Program for students in Years 3 -6. iPads are fast, automated, interactive, multimodal, adapt to different contexts and support the rapid communication and representation of knowledge for many different audiences. They afford students the opportunity to transform the ways that they think and learn and give them greater control over how, where and when they learn.

ICT is a general capability within the Australian Curriculum which aims to support and enhance student learning across all areas of the curriculum. Students need to develop and apply ICT knowledge, skills and appropriate social and ethical protocols and practices to investigate, create and communicate, as well as developing their ability to manage and operate ICT to meet their learning needs.

At Infant Jesus School we believe that:

- All students can learn and do so in a variety of ways.
- Meaningful technology integration is an essential element to learning in the 21st Century.
- Effective teacher up-skilling is important in raising competencies for all educators, students and parents.
- Technology is a tool that is **one** part of a quality learning process and needs to be used in conjunction with other effective pedagogical strategies.
- iPads are neither a substitute nor a replacement for tools we are already using; they are tool that can be used when / as they allow for outcomes to be achieved in ways not previously thought possible.

Students are expected to utilize available technology in a responsible manner and to display all the attributes of safe digital citizenship. They are further expected to use the internet and all available devices, including iPads, in a responsible and ethical manner as stated in the Acceptable use of Technology at Infant Jesus School.

**All Students understand that the use of Information and Communication Technologies at Infant Jesus School is a privilege, not a right.**