



Policy Number:	STUDENT 03
Policy Name:	Social Media Policy - Student
Contact Officer:	Deputy Principal –Students
Date Approved by Leadership:	May 2022
Date of Next Review:	May 2025
Related Policies:	Harassment & Bullying Policy Student Mobile Phone Policy Student Device Acceptable Use Policy Behaviour Management Policy Safe Schools Policy Cyber Bullying Policy

PREAMBLE

God is at the centre of our College...Mercy is the heartbeat of the Gospel. We encourage every student to grow in the fullness of life and realise their potential through the bread we break at school, the bread of relationships and the bread of conversation. Let us engage the heart and bring faith to life and life to faith (Thomas Groome).

LEGISLATION

This policy takes into account relevant legislative requirements within the state of Victoria, including the specific requirements of the Victorian Child Safe Standards as set out in *Ministerial Order No. 1359*. This policy applies to St Joseph's College staff, including employees, volunteers, contractors and clergy.

Further information relating to the Ministerial Order can be found at <https://www.safeguardingservices.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Ministerial-Order-1359.pdf>

1. PURPOSE

1.1 At St Joseph's College, we are concerned with the dignity and growth of each student and staff member. Courtesy, consideration, and co-operation all help to foster values of mutual respect, responsibility and service within the College Community.

1.2 St Joseph's College is committed to the principles and legal requirements of the Safe Schools legislation. As such all social media activity conducted within the College must align with St Joseph's College being a Safe School for all.

1.3 All those who are part of the St Joseph's community, students, parents, teachers and non-teaching staff have the right to benefit from the opportunities that exist from being members of our community. They should all behave within and outside of the College in such a manner that the image of the College is not negatively affected or brought into disrepute.

1.4 St Joseph's College accepts that the use of social media can be an effective business and social tool and that such media is commonly used by the St Joseph's College community to express their views, comments, ideas and criticism on a whole range of issues.

1.5 St Joseph's College expects those who are a part of the community, when using social media, to show courtesy and respect to others, including those within the St Joseph's College community. Social media should not be used to abuse others, expose them to offensive or inappropriate content to denigrate or show disrespect for St Joseph's College.

1.6 The purpose of this policy is to set standards of behaviour for the use of social media that are consistent with the broader values and expectations of the St Joseph's College community.

2. DEFINITIONS

2.1 Social Media - Refers to all social networking sites like Facebook, Snapchat, Instagram, Twitter, WhatsApp, LinkedIn, and YouTube.

3. SCOPE

3.1 This policy applies to our College community, St Joseph's College staff, students and parents.

4. RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES

4.1 The College community is expected to show respect to others, including members of the College community. Members of the College community are also expected to give due respect to the reputation and good name of the College.

4.2 When using social media, our community is expected to ensure that they:

- Respect the rights and confidentiality of others;
- Do not impersonate or falsely represent another person;
- Do not bully, intimidate, harass or threaten others;
- Do not make defamatory comments;
- Do not use obscene or offensive language towards others;
- Do not post content that is hateful, threatening, or incites violence against others;
- Do not request or post inappropriate or pornographic images;
- Do not harm the reputation and good standing of St Joseph's College or those within its community;
- Do not use excessive criticism to portray a person as socially, mentally, physically or intellectually inferior as a prohibited behaviour;
- Sharing of pictures, images, audio or visual recordings of members of St Joseph's College without permission.

5. BREACH OF THIS POLICY

5.1 A breach of this policy may also involve a breach of other St Joseph's College policies, such as:

- Harassment & Bullying Policy
- Student Device Acceptable Use Policy
- Behaviour Management Policy
- Cyber Bullying Policy

5.2 Any breach of this policy will be considered by the Principal or their delegates, such as the Deputy Principal or House Leaders and will be dealt with on a case by case basis.

5.3 All reports of cyberbullying and other technology misuses will be investigated and may result in a notification to Police where the College is legally obliged to do so. Students must be aware that in certain circumstances where a crime has been committed, they may be subjected to a criminal investigation by Police over which the College will have no control.