



McAuley Community School is a welcoming Catholic community where we embody the Mercy values. Here we learn and grow holistically, in a safe and nurturing environment so that we can thrive and imagine new possibilities.

A Catholic school in the Mercy tradition.

Mercy Keys

Respect, Compassion, Gratitude, Courage, Creativity

Rationale

McAuley Community School embraces the presence and use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) as an integral part of the learning environment. McAuley Community School is dedicated to ensuring all members of the community are well informed about how to stay safe while using technology.

Learners will be encouraged to develop positive, responsible and respectful attitudes and behaviours whilst using information and communication technologies. Ideally, they will recognise the rights of all people to be safe and free from both harassment and abuse.

Definitions

Cybersafety - the way in which users behave responsibly online to keep themselves and others safe. It incorporates the safe and desirable use of the internet and ICT equipment and devices, an awareness of our digital footprint, and how to behave appropriately and respectfully.

Cyberbullying – direct verbal or indirect bullying behaviours using digital technologies, e.g. Inappropriate comments on social media spaces.

(Source:

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/bullystoppers/Pages/cyberbullyingcampaign.aspx>)

Aims

- To promote the appropriate use of ICT by all members of the school community that ensures the safety and well-being of all learners, staff and parents
- To ensure learners, staff and parents are aware of their roles and shared responsibilities in relation to cyber safety and appropriate online behaviours
- To develop the skills, knowledge, attitudes and behaviours required of learners, staff and parents to participate and function responsibly, safely and appropriately in cyberspace

Implementation

McAuley Community School promotes partnership between all members of the school community in adhering to this policy. Our approach to Cybersafety aligns with our school's Mercy Keys and is supported by our ICT Policy, Learner Agreements and Privacy Policy.



Prevention

- The school is responsible for sourcing and implementing relevant and developmentally appropriate programs and strategies that promote positive online behaviours and cybersafe practices. A range of Neighbourhood-based, interactive, online student learning, staff professional learning and parent education opportunities will be utilised. These include eSmart initiatives, Cybersafety experts, promoting cybersafe websites, support materials and publishing relevant information via school newsletter and Audiri app
- All staff, learners and parents are responsible for acting in accordance with the school's ICT Learner Agreements, and to work in partnership to ensure the safe and productive use of ICT
- The school has the authority to monitor, access and review all school-based ICT usage by learners, staff and parents. This includes emails sent and received on the school's computers and/or network facilities

Intervention

- Learners, staff or parents can report any breaches of the ICT User Agreements or incidents of cyberbullying activity to a staff member or Principal at any time
- Any alleged incidences or allegations of behaviour that are in breach of McAuley Community School's ICT Learner Agreement will be thoroughly investigated by the school
- Significant breaches made by, or involving, learners will result in the school notifying the parents of those students
- The school's response to alleged breaches will be followed up with due diligence and consideration for all parties involved or affected by any breach
- The progress and well-being of any learner involved in breaches will be monitored and evaluated
- Where cyberbullying has been identified, counselling and support may be offered, as determined by the school
- Consequences of inappropriate use will follow the steps outlined in the Developing Personal Responsibility Procedures

Useful websites:

eSafety <https://www.esafety.gov.au/>
CyberSafety Solutions <http://www.cybersafetysolutions.com.au/>
Bullying. No Way! <https://bullyingnoway.gov.au/>

Cyber-Safety Keeping Children Safe in a Connected World, Guidelines for Schools and Preschools

<i>Policy Title</i>	CyberSafety Policy
<i>Ratified by School Board</i>	February 2022
<i>Signed School Board Chair</i>	Cherise Round 24.2.22
<i>Policy due for review</i>	2025