

ST EUPHEMIA COLLEGE



PREP – YEAR 12

SOCIAL MEDIA
POLICY
2021

1. Policy Statement

Social media and online networking platforms are increasingly growing forms of communication for individuals and corporations, allowing them to interact more easily than before.

However, social media is also an area in which rules and boundaries are constantly being tested.

All communication in the public arena, including the ‘cyber world’, by and about the students, staff, parents and caregivers of St Euphemia College should reflect the Christian Orthodox ethos and values of the College.

St Euphemia College expects all members of the College community to aspire to, and live by, the Christian Orthodox virtues of love, forgiveness and kindness.

2. Applicability

This Policy applies to students’, staff and parents and caregivers’ use of online networking and social media platforms.

3. Context/Rationale

Social media refers to all social networking sites where the internet is used to connect socially. Social Media – refers to all social networking sites; such as, but not limited to:

Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Snapchat, YouTube, Instagram, TikTok, MySpace, Discord, WhatsApp, Skype, Virtual Game Worlds and Virtual Social Worlds.

A community can only function effectively when all members treat each other with love, respect and compassion. This is especially true for St Euphemia College which adheres to the values of the Greek Orthodox Church.

St Euphemia College accepts that social media is commonly used by members of the College community to express their views, opinions and ideas about a range of issues.

The purpose of this Policy is to protect all members of the St Euphemia College community (School Board, students, parents, teachers and non-teaching staff) and set out guiding principles for the acceptable use of social media by all members of the College community. This Policy covers any negative impact on students and their families, the College, or its community members, from the unacceptable use of social media. This Policy applies to students when students are using any social media at school, at home, during school sporting events and excursions, camps and extra-curricular activities (where permitted).

This Policy does not replace the Student Electronic Communication Policies or other policies, but instead complements them. In addition, this Policy should be read in conjunction with the Student Code of Conduct, Staff Code of Conduct, Parents and Caregivers’ Code of Conduct, Mobile Phone Policy and Student Acceptable Use of Digital Technologies Agreement.

St Euphemia College believes the teaching of cyber-safe and ethical online behaviour is essential in the lives of students and is best taught in partnership between home and school.

Twenty-first century students spend increasing amounts of time online learning and socialising. These on-line communities need responsible cybercitizens who do the right thing by themselves and others online, particularly when no one is watching.

The purpose of this Policy is not to discourage or limit a person's personal expression or online presence, however, the potential for direct or indirect damage caused through inappropriate use of social media is very real. As such, a person's online behaviour ought to reflect the same values and standards of honesty and respect that a person uses face-to-face, and be in accordance with the Greek Orthodox Ethos of the school.

4. Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Requirements

The Principal/Delegated Authority reserves the right to monitor and evaluate the use of its equipment and network systems at any time without notice and report any infringements to the relevant authority.

When members of the College community use social media, they must recognise:

- That online behaviour should at all times demonstrate respect for the dignity of each person as an image of God
- The need to behave in an ethical manner when using social media as a reflection of the College's values and expectations
- Their responsibility to serve as positive role models for their peers and all people
- That social media activities are visible to all members of the College community and beyond.

Although cyberspace may appear to be a 'safe', 'private' and 'virtual or imaginary' world, the laws that govern the 'real world' also apply in cyberspace.

While there is no legislation that regulates social media sites and usage, it is important that, students in particular, keep in mind that what people do with social media can have real world, legal consequences.

Examples of Acts that have been associated with the use of social media:

- Fair Work Act 2009
- Privacy Act 1988
- Telecommunications (Interception and Access) Act 1979
- Telecommunications Act 1997 (Note: the Cybercrime Legislation Amendment Bill 2011)
- Criminal Code Amendment (Cyber Predators) Act 2006
- Copyright Act 1968
- Copyright Amendment (Digital Agenda) Act 2000
- Copyright Amendment (Moral Rights) Act 2000
- School Education Act 1999
- School Education Regulations 2000

5. Policy Review

This Policy will be reviewed as required.