

SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

INTRODUCTION

Students at Caloundra Christian College enjoy the opportunities and reward that being a member of the College brings. It is subsequently expected that students will uphold the ethos of the College in all Social Media interactions. Students will not act in such a way that the image of the College is brought into disrepute nor in a way that harms members of the College community. Social Media can be, when appropriate, an effective educative and social tool and is commonly used by the Caloundra Christian College community to express their views, comments, ideas and criticism on a whole range of issues. Caloundra Christian College expects students to use Social Media in a respectful and responsible manner. Social Media should not be used to insult, present offensive or inappropriate content or to misrepresent the College or any member of the School community.

RATIONALE

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 Caloundra Christian College community.

DEFINITION

Social Media refers to all social networking sites such as Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, YouTube, MySpace and MSN and includes email and mobile devices.

SCOPE

This Policy applies to students of Caloundra Christian College.

RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

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

Student use of social media and access to social networking sites whilst at school is strictly forbidden. (The College provides ICT resources for teaching and learning purposes and the use of frivolous sites is discouraged.)

When using social media outside of school hours, students are expected to ensure that they:

- Respect the rights and confidentiality of others;
- Do not impersonate or falsely represent another person;
- Do not bully, intimidate, abuse, harass or threaten others;
- Do not make defamatory comments;
- Do not use offensive or threatening language or resort to personal abuse towards each other or members of the Caloundra Christian College Community;
- Do not post content that is hateful, threatening, pornographic or incites violence against others;

- Do not harm the reputation and good standing of Caloundra Christian College or those within its community;
- Do not film, photograph or record members of the College community without express permission of the College or use film, photographs or recordings without express permission of the above.

BREACH OF THIS POLICY

A breach of this policy may also involve a breach of other Caloundra Christian College policies, and should be read in conjunction with the:

- Bullying Policy;
- Student Protection Policy
- College Expectations

A breach of this policy will be considered by the Principal, Head of Primary, Head of Secondary or Head of House and will be dealt with on a case by case basis.

All reports of cyber bullying and other technology misuses will be investigated fully and may result in a notification to Police where the College is obliged to do so. Sanctions may include, but are not limited to, the loss of computer privileges, detention, suspension, or termination of enrolment. Students and Parents must be aware that in certain circumstances where a crime has been committed, they may be subject to a criminal investigation by Police over which the College will have no control.