Our Lady Help of Christians Primary School

ICT Policy

Rationale:
OLHC Primary School recognises the need for students to be safe and responsible users of digital technologies. We believe that explicitly teaching students about safe and responsible online behaviours is essential, and is best taught in partnership with parents/guardians and teachers. We request that parents/guardians work with us and encourage this behaviour at home.

Aims:
The purpose of the use of Technology at OLHC is to support educational progress of all of our students. Technology provides resources and unique opportunities for collaborative work. It helps students and staff members become real participants in the information age by allowing them to access and use information from computers anywhere, communicate and share information with individuals or groups of other students and staff, and to expand their knowledge bases. We need to recognise that as technologies shift, the ways that information may be accessed, communicated, and transferred, those changes may also alter instruction and student learning. However, Electronic information research skills are fundamental to the preparation of future citizens and employees.

The purpose of technology use at OLHC is to engage and inspire us all to learn and celebrate our achievements. These tools allow us to keep track of our learning journey.

Implementation:
Technology is to be used for educational purposes, not for personal communication or for entertainment. This is monitored through students’ individual usernames and logins (Year 3-6). The content of information accessed should be closely related to the educational curriculum. Access is a privilege, not a right, and will be governed by the following procedures and regulations:

1. Students, teachers and parents agree to the terms and conditions as set out in the Acceptable Use Policy (attached) - Each student who gains access to the internet must have signed this agreement with their parents/guardians. Teachers and employees of the school will also sign the agreement. This is kept on file. Any misuse of the internet and technology will result in consequences listed in the agreement. This will include supportive measures to ensure that the child or adult understands how to use technology appropriately in the future.

2. Take care of all equipment, belongings and property

3. Access to the Internet - Students may access their email and the internet both at school and at home. They will use various search engines such as google, in order to access information related to their learning. The school intranet will also be accessible at school and home. It is a condition of access that students respect the rules and regulations of the use of technology at OLHC. These include:

- **Cyberbullying**- Cyberbullying is a term used to describe bullying that is carried out through internet or mobile phone technologies. It is often combined with off-line bullying. It may include a combination of behaviours such as pranking (i.e. hang-up calls), sending insulting text messages, publishing someone’s private information, creating hate sites or implementing social exclusion campaigns in social networking sites. It is also cyberbullying when a student(s) uses technology to run a multi-step campaign to bully another student, e.g. setting another student