
Cybersafety Policy

Date: September 2022

Next Review: September 2025

1. Preamble

- 1.1. Swan Hill Christian School (SHCS) recognises the importance of digital technologies in preparing students to be active participants in God's creation and believes that digital technologies are an integral part of teaching and learning within the curriculum. The school embraces the creational goodness of technology and is committed to reducing the exposure of students to the distortions of technology in this fallen world, including but not limited to cyber-risks (such as cyberbullying, online sexual predation, sexting, identity theft and fraud) when using the internet, mobile phones and other personal electronic devices.
- 1.2. The aims of this policy are as follows:
 - 1.2.1. Establish a cybersafe culture that is in keeping with the Christian values of the school and the expectations outlined in the school's acceptable use agreements and *Student Discipline & Behaviour Policy*, and that includes actions and consequences for inappropriate behaviour
 - 1.2.2. Educate and encourage SHCS students to be smart, safe, responsible and ethical users of digital technologies
 - 1.2.3. Recognise that explicitly teaching students about safe and responsible online behaviour is essential in the lives of students and is best taught in partnership between home and school
- 1.3. The safe use of technology whilst at school is managed through the *Electronic Communication & Information Technology Policy* and *Personal Electronic Devices Policy*.

2. Definitions

- 2.1. *Cybersafety* refers to the safe and responsible use of information and communication technologies. This includes privacy and information protection, respectful communication and knowing how to obtain help to deal with online issues. Cybersafety issues commonly occur through a student's use of their own technology devices (e.g. smart phone, tablet, laptop, home computer, social media). Common cybersafety issues include the following:
 - 2.1.1. *Cyberbullying* is a form of bullying and involves a person being targeted by another through the use of digital technology or mobile communication devices, or through the internet (including social networking websites, chat rooms and email), for the purpose of harassment, stalking, threats, conveying sexual innuendo, communicating false pretences, forwarding someone else's private communication, posting humiliating messages or pictures, or other forms of harmful behaviour.
 - 2.1.2. *Sexting* is the sending or posting of provocative or sexual photos, messages or videos online.
 - 2.1.3. Identity theft is the fraudulent assumption of a person's private information for their personal gain. Students are exposed to these risks as they are often unaware of the safety issues surrounding their digital footprint.
 - 2.1.4. Predatory behaviour is where a student is targeted online by a stranger who attempts to arrange a face-to-face meeting in order to engage in inappropriate behaviour.

3. **Details**

- 3.1. A school-wide approach will be taken to education in relation to cybersafe practices from Prep to Grade 6. Staff members will regularly refresh and refer back to cybersafe practices with their students. All staff members will lead by example in following cybersafe practices.
- 3.2. All students and staff members will be informed of the school's *Cybersafety Policy* from time-to-time.
- 3.3. Cybersafety will be taught by actively educating students in cybersafe practices and being good digital disciples. The school will promote the use of cybersafe practices amongst students, parents and teachers. Students and staff members will be supported in their pursuit of learning and teaching, whilst using technology safely.
- 3.4. Cybersafety may also be discussed informally (e.g. while students are composing emails or leaving comments on a blog), or as the need arises.
- 3.5. All students and parents/guardians must agree to and sign the Internet Agreement Form, before commencing digital technologies activities each year.
- 3.6. The school will prioritise cybersafety through providing a protected online environment with firewalls and monitoring of usage, providing training in cybersafe practices and through applying the Student Code of Conduct to online behaviour and interactions.
- 3.7. All complaints of cyberbullying will be heard in confidence and taken seriously. The school will support students, parents and staff members in dealing with cyberbullying incidents in a consistent and systematic way. Details of cyberbullying incidents will be recorded.
- 3.8. The school will offer information for parents via a variety of media (e.g. parent information sessions, school newsletters, uEducateUs app).
- 3.9. Staff programs will occur periodically in order to keep staff members informed of current issues/strategies for teaching cybersafe practices and supporting students who experience cyberbullying.
- 3.10. The *Cybersafety Policy* also applies during school excursions, camps and extra-curricular activities and extends to actions undertaken outside of school hours if there is an impact on members of the community.