



# Ethical Use of Technology Policy

reviewed by IT Strategic Committee (August 2025)

<b>Issued</b>	August 2025	<b>Replaces</b>	Ethical Use of Technology Policy 2023	<b>Revision due (annually reviewed)</b>	August 2026
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## **Statement of Policy:**

At Ryan Catholic College, we understand the importance of cultivating a community that promotes moral and ethical values. We recognise the role that technology plays in the educational process and acknowledge the need to establish a policy for its appropriate use. This policy outlines the acceptable use of technology and emphasises the importance of responsible and ethical behavior.

## **Policy Directive**

Technology is to be used ethically for educational purposes, including research, learning activities, collaboration and communication.

## **The Ethical Use of Technology enables the following aspects to be upheld.**

### **1. Engagement in Respectful Communication**

All forms of communication, including emails, messages, images and comments, should be conducted with respect, kindness, and consideration for others.

### **2. Adherence to Privacy and Safety regulations**

Students must respect the privacy of others and refrain from accessing, sharing or manipulating information without consent.

### **3. Awareness of Intellectual Property Rights**

Copyright laws and intellectual property rights must be respected. Plagiarism, piracy, and unauthorised use of copyrighted material is strictly prohibited.

### **4. Promotion of and engagement in Digital Citizenship behaviours**

All students are expected to behave responsibly online, promoting positive digital footprints and protecting themselves and others from cyberbullying, harassment, and inappropriate content.

### **5. Ethical use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)**

Education on the ethical use of AI, is regularly undertaken as part of the educational program.

## **The Risks of engaging in Unethical Use of Technology:**

### **1. Distraction from Learning**

Engaging in inappropriate or excessive use of technology can lead to a decline in academic performance and hinder the learning environment for oneself and others.

### **2. Cyberbullying**

Unethical use of technology, such as sending threatening or hurtful messages, sharing private information without consent, or spreading rumors online, can result in emotional distress and harm to individuals.

### **3. Inappropriate Content**

Accessing, sharing, creating, manipulating or distributing inappropriate content, including explicit material or violent media, including deepfakes, goes against the College's moral values and can have negative consequences for individuals and the College community.

#### **4. Damage to Reputation**

Engaging in immoral or unethical activities online can damage the reputation of individuals, the College, and the broader Catholic community.

#### **5. Legal Consequences**

Violating copyright laws, engaging in cyberbullying, or participating in illegal activities using technology can have legal repercussions and can jeopardise the College's commitment to moral and ethical conduct.

### **Consequence of Breach of this Policy**

The consequence for each situation will be determined by the Principal after appropriate investigation and consultation.

- a) All students will be treated with dignity, compassion and confidentiality.
- b) Students will be encouraged and supported in making responsible decisions, especially when they are contrary to those of their peers.
- c) Referral to professional support will be provided to students and their carers, where appropriate.
- d) Where an incident involving any student occurs, parents/carers will be notified as soon as possible.
- e) The unethical use of technology on the College premises or while representing the College are serious misdemeanors. These may result in lengthy suspensions, prescriptive return to College strategies or exclusion.
- f) Unlawful and/or illegal activities will be reported by the Principal, or their delegate to the appropriate authorities.

### **Resources:**

- [Dec 10\\_23 Student Behaviour & Pastoral Support Policy](#)
- [SDS\\_G068/07/23 Positive Behaviour in Schools Guidelines](#)
- [DEC 09\\_24 Student Bullying: Prevention and Response Policy](#)
- [Connected Devices Policy RCC](#)
- [Positive Behaviour Management Policy RCC](#)