



Ethical Use of Technology Policy

reviewed by IT Strategic Committee (August 2025)

Issued	August 2025	Replaces	Ethical Use of Technology Policy 2023	Revision due (annually reviewed)	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](#)