



STUDENT SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

Purpose of this Policy

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 St Paul's School (the School).

Scope

This Policy applies to all students of St Paul's School. Its application is not limited to school hours, but operates at all times including evenings, weekends and all holidays.

Responsibility

Principal or Principal's Delegate

Related Policies

Student Code of Conduct
Bullying and Harassment Policy
Anti-Bullying Policy
Student Behaviour Management Policy
Mobile Phone and Wearable Devices Policy
Student Protection Policy

Policy

Policy Statement

Social media can offer effective educational, social and collaborative tools, and are used by the School community to disseminate important information and views, comments and ideas on a range of issues. The School promotes a future-focused approach to learning and students benefit from initiatives such as the Mobile Phone and Wearable Devices Program.

It is an expectation that students uphold the ethos of the School in all social media interactions and electronic communications. Students are not to act in such a way that brings the School into disrepute, or harms the reputation of, or misrepresents any member of the School community.

Definitions

The term "**social media**" refers to online tools which provide individual users and/or organisations with the ability to create and share content in online communities. Social media tools include, but are not limited to Facebook, Twitter, Google+, Tumblr, Flickr, Instagram, TikTok, Pinterest, YouTube, Snapchat, Vine, weblogs, forums and discussion boards, online multiplayer gaming platforms, instant messaging, vodcasting and podcasting and any other websites or devices that enable individuals to publish or distribute their own views, blogs, comments, photos, videos, etc. Social media can be accessed from any computer or mobile device whether on School premises or at any place, including students' homes, and includes all communications via email and texting.

Responsibilities

Students are expected to show respect to all members of the School community. Students are also expected to give due respect to the reputation and good name of the School.

In doing so they must carefully consider and manage their digital footprint in a mature and responsible manner, with the knowledge that material posted on social networking sites may be accessed by other parties external to the School and may not be effectively or permanently deleted. By posting inappropriate content such as provocative images (including video footage) or images of illegal activity, students damage their own and the School's reputation, both now and in the future.

When using social media, students are expected to ensure they:

- uphold the laws of the state and the nation;
- do not harm the reputation of the School or those within its community;
- 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 members of the School community;
- do not post content that is hateful, threatening, pornographic or incites violence against others;
- do not use SPS, variants of the St Paul's School name, or a staff member's name as part of a hashtag or caption;
- do not use SPS, variants of the St Paul's School name or a staff member's name as part of a private group on social media unless specifically sanctioned by the Principal or the Principal's delegate;
- do not upload for public viewing any images of intellectual property of the School (such as handouts or task sheets) unless specifically sanctioned by the Principal or the Principal's delegate;
- do not access social media (including via a mobile device) at any time during school hours without the express permission of a staff member;
- do not film, photograph or record members of the School community at School activities and events either during or outside school hours, without the express permission of the Principal or the Principal's delegate; and
- do not use avatars or other means of hiding or misrepresenting their identity.

Breach of this Policy

A breach of this policy may also involve a breach of other St Paul's School policies, and this policy should be read in conjunction with the:

- Student Code of Conduct
- Bullying and Harassment Policy
- Mobile Phone and Wearable Devices Policy
- Student Behaviour Management Policy
- Student Protection Policy and Procedures

Any breach of this policy or any of the policies listed above will be considered by the Principal or the Principal's delegate and will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

All reports of cyber bullying and any other breach of this policy will be investigated fully and may result in a notification to Police where the School is obliged to do so. Sanctions may include, but are not limited to, the loss of computer privileges, detention, suspension, or cancellation of enrolment from the School. 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.