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## Cybersafety Policy

Policy Number: CYB-001.L3.01

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### 1. **Preamble**

- 1.1. Chairo Christian School 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 aim of our policy is to:
  - 1.2.1. Establish a cybersafe culture which 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 which includes actions and consequences for inappropriate behaviour.
  - 1.2.2. Educate Chairo 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.
  - 1.2.4. Maintain accreditation as an eSmart school by meeting all criteria as outlined in the eSmart System Tools or other suitable program as determined by the Executive Leadership Team.

### 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.
  - 2.1.1. Common cybersafety issues include:
    - 2.1.1.1. 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, forward someone else's private communication, posting humiliating messages or pictures, or other forms of harmful behaviour.
    - 2.1.1.2. Sexting is the sending or posting of provocative or sexual photos, messages or videos online.
    - 2.1.1.3. 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.
    - 2.1.1.4. Predatory behaviour is where a student is targeted online by a stranger who attempts to arrange a face to face meeting, in an attempt to engage in inappropriate behaviour.
  - 2.1.2. Cybersafety issues commonly occur through a student's use of their own technology devices (e.g. smart phone, tablet, laptop, home computer, social media).



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2.1.3. Safe use of technology whilst at school is managed through our *Electronic Communication & Information Technology Policy* and *Personal Electronic Devices Policy*.

2.2. *Digital disciple practices* refers to the use of digital technologies in a manner which encourages critical thinking about the technologies and how to use such technologies in a manner that would bring glory to God.

2.3. *The eSmart Agreement* refers to a program facilitated through the Alannah and Madeline Foundation that provides a framework designed to guide the introduction of policies, practices and whole-school change processes to support the creation of a cybersafe environment.

### 3. **Details**

3.1. A school-wide approach will be taken to the education of cybersafe practices from Prep to Year 12. 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 new students and staff members will be informed of the school's *Cybersafety Policy* at the commencement of their time at the school.

3.3. Cybersafety will be taught explicitly 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. Students in Years 3-12 and all parents/guardians must agree to and sign the Student Acceptable Use Agreement, *before* commencing digital technologies activities each year.

3.6. Staff members will supervise student activity while online in order to ensure that students follow cybersafe and digital discipleship practices.

3.7. All complaints of cyberbullying will be heard in confidence and taken seriously. The school will support students and staff members in dealing with cyberbullying incidents in a consistent and systematic way. A cyberbullying register is maintained by the school and any incidents will be reported to parents/guardians of the student(s) involved.

3.8. The school will offer information for parents via a variety of mediums (e.g. parent information sessions, school newsletters, school learning management system).

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 Cybersafe Policy also applies during school excursions, camps and extra-curricular activities.

3.11. This policy should be read in conjunction with the:

- Prep to Year 4 Student Acceptable Use Agreement
- Years 5 to 12 Student Acceptable Use Agreement
- Bullying (Students) Policy
- Electronic Communications and Information Technology Policy
- Personal Electronic Devices Policy
- Social Media Policy
- Student Images Policy
- Chairo Code of Respect