CYBERSAFETY POLICY

Issue date:	
Last Review date:	
Recent review date:	17 March, 2026
Review cycle:	Every 3 years
Approved by:	Principal

1. BACKGROUND

Shepparton Christian College is committed to providing a safe and respectful learning environment, both on campus and online. Digital technologies are an integral part of modern education, enabling communication, collaboration, creativity, and access to information. With these opportunities come responsibilities and the need to ensure that technology is used in ways that protect the wellbeing, privacy, and safety of all members of the school community.

2. PURPOSE

Shepparton Christian College 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 positive aspects of technology and is committed to reducing the exposure of students to the negative aspects, 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.

The aims of this policy are as follows:

- Establish a cybersafe culture that reflects the Christian values of Shepparton Christian College and aligns with the expectations outlined in the College's ICT, Discipline and Antibullying Policies. These policies include actions and consequences for inappropriate behaviour.
- Educate and encourage SCC students to be smart, safe, responsible and ethical users of digital technologies.
- Recognise that explicitly teaching students about safe and responsible online behaviour is essential and is best taught in partnership between home and school.

3. SCOPE

This policy applies to all students, teachers, and staff members at Shepparton Christian College.

4. DEFINITIONS

Cybersafety

Cybersafety refers to the safe and responsible use of information and communication technologies. It includes privacy and information protection, respectful and appropriate communication, and knowing how to obtain help in managing 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).

Cyberbullying

Cyberbullying is a form of bullying that involves targeting an individual through the use of digital technology, mobile communication devices, or 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.

Sexting

Sexting is the sending of provocative or sexual photos, messages, or videos online.

Identity Theft

Identity theft is the fraudulent assumption of another person's private information for personal gain. Students are exposed to these risks as they are often unaware of the safety issues surrounding their digital footprint.

Predatory Behaviour

Predatory behaviour occurs when a student is targeted online by an individual seeking to engage in inappropriate online behaviour or to arrange a face-to-face meeting to engage in inappropriate behaviour.

Digital Disciple Practices

Digital Disciple Practices refer to the principles that guide the use of digital technologies in ways that encourage critical thinking about the technologies and promote their use in a manner that brings glory to God.

5. POLICY STATEMENTS

Shepparton Christian College takes a school-wide approach to cybersafe practices from Prep to Year 12. Staff members are encouraged to regularly refer back to cybersafe practices with their students and are responsible for leading by example in cybersafe practices. All students and staff members will be reminded of the school's Cybersafety Policy from time-to- time.

Cybersafety will be taught explicitly through active education in safe online practices and the principles of being digital disciples. The College will promote cybersafe practices amongst students and teachers to support them in their pursuit of learning and teaching, whilst using technology safely.

Cybersafety may also be discussed informally (e.g. while students are composing emails or leaving comments on a blog), or as the need arises.

The school will prioritise cybersafety through providing a protected online environment with firewalls and monitoring of usage, providing training in cybersafe practices, and applying the Student Code of Conduct to online behaviour and interactions.

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 consistently and systematically.

The school will offer information on cybersafety to parents via a variety of media (e.g. parent information sessions, school newsletters, school learning management system).

Staff training programs will occur periodically to keep staff members informed of current issues/strategies for teaching cybersafe practices and supporting students who experience cyberbullying.

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.