



# Student Social Media Policy

## DOCUMENT STATUS

Draft

Ready for Review

Final

<b>Function/Section</b>	Digital Technology & Equipment
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## DOCUMENT MODIFICATION HISTORY

Version Number	Primary Author(s) (name and position)	Key Changes and Notes	Date Changes Completed
1.0	Ted Kosicki (Principal)	Created document	
2.0	Grace Ryan (Admin Asst.)	Edited document format for review	04/04/19

## DOCUMENT APPROVAL

Approved By (name/position of approver)	Date
School Council	04/04/2019

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## **INTRODUCTION**

It has been estimated that, across the globe, two people start a weblog every second. Add this to the phenomenal growth in Facebook, Twitter and other online forums and it's clear that the internet is rearranging many things about how students communicate. Furthermore, as the Australian Curriculum specifies "Communicating with ICT", via conduits including those classified as social media, as an expected skill for students across the curriculum, students are expected to be conversant in the use and appropriate application of social media contexts. With this in mind, GMAS recommends that students are conversant with our Social Media Policy to ensure their behaviour on Social Networks is safe, responsible and acceptable by school standards.

## **RELEVANT LEGISLATION**

The laws that apply in the 'real world' also apply in cyberspace.

There have been cases where the inappropriate use of social media against staff, students and community members (such as harassment) outside of school hours has resulted in students' school enrolment being terminated for serious misconduct.

Examples of Acts that may be associated with the use of social media are:

- Copyright Act 1968
- Telecommunications (Interception and Access) Act 1979
- Privacy Act 1988
- Telecommunications Act 1997
- School Education Act 1999
- Copyright Amendment (Digital Agenda) Act 2000
- Copyright Amendment (Moral Rights) Act 2000
- School Education Regulations 2000
- Criminal Code Amendment (Cyber Predators) Act 2006
- Fair Work Act 2009

Students are advised that social media conversations may be covered within school policies pertaining to privacy, defamation and intellectual property. Students need to be aware of the concept of leaving a "digital footprint", i.e. communication via social media and email is virtually indelible.

## **RISKS ASSOCIATED FOR STUDENTS WITH ONLINE SOCIAL MEDIA ACTIVITY**

There are risks associated with the use of social media. These include but are not exclusive to:

- Breaches of the School's [Acceptable Student Use of School Laptop, Network and Internet Policy and Agreement](#) including posting of student photos without consent (e.g. posting photos of students/staff at events with other GMAS students in frame).
- Plagiarism or breach of copyright conditions when using or reproducing material.
- Excessive school-time used browsing social media applications.
- Social media put to an [inappropriate use](#).
- Student comments inadvertently bringing the school's reputation into disrepute.
- Students, through the use of pseudonyms or 'avatars' representing themselves as someone else either within the school or outside of the school.
- Students disclosing personal information relating to school staff, students or parents or official information which is confidential or 'commercial-in-confidence'.

It is advisable that students understand they are personally responsible for what they write on social networks. During school time, and occasionally after hours, they are representing the school and have to act in a professional manner as they would through emails or other correspondence.

Whilst it may not be the reality, the general public will often perceive that the views expressed by the individual student are the views of the school. Thus, students must be aware that that the manner in which they conduct themselves outside of the school will nearly always be linked back to the school in some way. The main issue of inappropriate social media comment is not the intent of the author but rather how the comment is received.

## **STUDENT RULES WHEN USING SOCIAL MEDIA**

Students:

- Need to read, understand and comply with the School's [Acceptable Student Use of School Laptop, Network and Internet Policy and Agreement](#).
- Must avoid any statement that might bring the school into disrepute.
- Must not commit the school to any action or initiative without appropriate authority.
- Must not disclose official or personal information without consent.
- Should be aware of laws covering libel, defamation, privacy and the protection of intellectual property.
- Must ensure all activities are in line with all other relevant school policies.

- Must be apolitical, impartial and professional and avoid any statements that might be interpreted as advocating government policies or criticising the policies of political parties or groups.
- Must protect personal information entrusted to the school from distribution into the public domain.
- Must have approval from the relevant school staff to use social media in an official capacity.
- Should take note of any copyright/Creative Commons and Intellectual Property notices attached to content they wish to use/repurpose. Additionally students should cite or otherwise acknowledge content sources when they are known.

## **INAPPROPRIATE USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA BY STUDENTS**

Inappropriate use includes, but is not limited to:

- Conducting private business or visiting social media sites (personal accounts) during school hours.
- Using discriminatory, defamatory, abusive or otherwise objectionable language in content.
- Accessing, downloading or transmitting any kind of sexually explicit material, violent images including graphic images of blood or gore (without medical purpose).
- Accessing, downloading or transmitting information on the use and construction of weapons, explosives and other tools of violence or terrorism.
- Accessing, downloading or transmitting any material deemed to be illegal under WA or Australian Commonwealth law.
- Accessing, downloading or transmitting hate speeches and overt racism; material extolling the inherent or moral superiority or inferiority of a particular race, ethnic group, or sexual orientation; racial epithets; or religious bigotry.
- Compromising the privacy of any person.
- Attempting to gain unauthorised access to the computing resources of other organisations.
- Disrupting the integrity of the school's data or information services.

## **RELATED POLICIES AND DOCUMENTS**

Personal Electronic Devices Policy

[Acceptable Student Use of School Laptop, Network and Internet Policy & Agreement](#)