TECHNOLOGY POLICY

INTRODUCTION

St Joseph's School is a place of learning. As such staff and students have the right to teach and to learn in an environment that provides opportunities to use and access new technologies and specifically Information Technology (IT). Such technology is provided for communication, educational and teaching purposes. The role that technology can play in the provision of quality teaching and learning experiences is valued by St. Joseph's School.

Information Technology is fast moving and ever changing. By its nature it is open to abuse, and can be utilised for many other activities, including illegal activities.

RATIONALE

MISSION STATEMENT

St Joseph's School offers a holistic education within a Catholic Christian environment whilst developing and valuing the uniqueness of the individual as we encourage each student to become a lifelong learner.

The mission statement of St Joseph's School stresses the idea of ‘education within a Catholic Christian environment’, which implies that there is a need for a safe and healthy work and learning environment. “Valuing the uniqueness of the individual” means that the issues of health and safety are significant to all students and workers at the school. A “holistic education” involves providing expected learning tools via technology.

MERCY VALUES

Respect, personal dignity, individual worth, freedom, integrity, trust, justice, understanding, forgiveness, honestly, care, compassion

DEFINITIONS

IT is defined as use of computer hardware and software and communications. It encompasses email and internet as well as programming and systems in general

POLICY STATEMENT

St Joseph's School seeks to provide contemporary information and other technologies that provide opportunities for education, research and learning, whilst being mindful that the use of this technology can be subject to abuse.

Each user of this technology must be able to use this technology in the context that it is being provided. The technology is an integral educational tool and that is the sole purpose for which it is being provided. The nature of the technology is fast moving and open to interference by outside influences and as such security and education is critical to protect our students.

Material which is highly offensive, pornography, illegal acts, software and copyright violation, hardware destruction, plagiarism are all risks of the availability of technology. Each user must be aware of the purpose for technology in schools is solely for the purpose of education. Protocols to monitor must be in place.

CONSEQUENCES

The School will operate according to CEOT Technology Guidelines and specifications.

The School has a protocol for use and each user will sign prior to use agreeing to terms of such use.

Monitoring procedures are utilised by the School via CEOT.

Michael McCarthy        Chris Haynes
Principal               Board Chair