Policy Manual – Schools
S.15 Internet and Technology – Acceptable Use for Students

The mission of Catholic Education in Hamilton-Wentworth, in union with our Bishop, is to enable all learners to realize the fullness of humanity of which Our Lord Jesus Christ is the model.

Policy Statement

The Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board (Board) provides students with access to the internet and technology (including devices, communication technologies and Board supported applications) that facilitate teaching and learning in and outside of the classroom. This policy outlines the acceptable use for students when accessing the Board internet and technology from home or remotely.

Purpose

All use of Board communication technologies and applications shall support the goals of Catholic education and be consistent with the Mission and Vision of both the Board and the school and the teachings of the Catholic Church. These technologies and applications allow differentiation of instruction allowing us to meet the needs of all learners. Teaching practices can be transformed by modifying and redefining instructional practices to meet the Ontario Catholic School Graduates Expectations. Assessment and Evaluation practices offer students a variety of options to achieve success with their learning. Access to technology supports our Each Belongs philosophy as students with special needs are able to meet with increased success. The following principles apply:

- Students are responsible and will be held accountable for the acceptable use of the internet and technology. All illegal and improper uses, including but not limited to bullying, pornography, hacking, use of malicious software, damaging equipment, obscenity, harassment, solicitation, gambling, commercial use, jokes, political lobbying and violating copyright or intellectual property rights are prohibited and may be subject to disciplinary actions and reported to the authorities;
- The Board reserves the right to monitor, audit, inspect, log, retrieve and archive data stored on Board-issued devices. Students are expected to use the Board-issued devices and digital resources in support of educational purposes;
- The Board reserves its right to inspect, log, retrieve and archive data stored on Board-issued devices, and data transmitted across its network and communication technologies. The principal will be notified of any inappropriate use by a student and determine next steps for any discipline if required;
- Principals and teachers are to supervise the appropriate use of these technologies. The school principal has the authority to contact the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) department to investigate any suspected inappropriate use by a student;
- Student passwords are to remain confidential. Students are responsible for all communication originating from their user account;
- Student should not attempt to install applications on Board-issued devices; and,
- Students are expected to use the internet and digital technology in a moral and ethical manner in keeping with the teachings of the Catholic Church.

Responsibility
Principals, Teachers, Parents, Students

Regulations
N/A

Related Policies
A.11 Internet and Electronic Communications – Acceptable Use for Employees
A.12 Personal Mobile Devices (PMDs)

Related Board Committee
Student Achievement and Well-Being

Policy Review Date
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