Policy on Anti Cyber-bullying

RATIONALE

All members of the community deserve to work and learn in a positive learning environment, free from hurtful behaviours. Students have the right to be treated with respect and dignity and have the responsibility to treat others with respect and dignity. Every student has the right to feel safe from bullying, whether it be physical, verbal or cyber.

**Cyber bullying** is when someone is tormented, threatened, harassed, humiliated, embarrassed, or otherwise targeted by another person using the Internet, interactive and digital technologies or mobile phones. Examples of cyber bullying behaviour are:

- Teasing and being making fun of others;
- Spreading of rumours or passing on gossip when online;
- Taking photographic images without permission and/or posting inappropriate photographic material or animation;
- Sending unwanted messages.

Students at Marian Catholic College have a responsibility to ensure that they:

- guard their user name, password and contact details
- do not participate in cyber-bullying
- do not use mobile phones, cameras or other digital devices to record audio and visual material that is not authorised as part of the school curriculum program
- do not breach the privacy of students, staff and members of the school community through any unauthorised recording, filming or dissemination
- do not store or disseminate inappropriate information or offensive images through digital media or other means
- report incidents of cyber-bullying to a member of staff
- advise students being victimised by cyber-bullying to talk to an adult
- offer to speak to an adult on behalf of the student who is being victimised by cyber-bullying

Many incidents of cyber-bullying are initiated in the home, and therefore, contact with the parents of all the students involved is often necessary. Students who are found to have used digital technologies to bully or harass another student or staff member at any time, including the holidays, weekends and after school, must accept that they may face any or all of the consequences outlined below, at the discretion of the Principal:

- Access to the external web at school may be limited or terminated
- Email usage and access to the web may be monitored
- Direction for community service
- Detention
- Counselling
- Suspension from the College
- Exclusion from the College
- The police may be involved and criminal charges may result

It is an expectation of the school that parents will support the College in such situations.