

Internet Policy

Vision Statement:

The purpose of Pacific Hills Christian School is to provide a Christian educational community as a centre of teaching and learning excellence, founded on Biblically-based beliefs, values and behaviour.

Rationale:

The Internet is a core part of the Information Technology revolution that is occurring in our culture. It is a valuable but daunting compilation of information, as it is a repository of the best and worst of human endeavour. It has also become an important tool for communication and community building and supplies the core technology for related media such as email, intranets and CD-Rom resources. Its potential benefits are great, but helping students and staff to access and find data safely is not a trivial matter, and the potential for harm is great.

Values and Mission Goals:

In personal Christian life: (a), (c), (d) and (e) in respect of its focus on a Biblical analysis of the dangers posted by the IT, and its encouragement of community building and outreach using IT.

In the process of Christian education: (a), (b), (c), and (d) in respect of its focus on the fulfilling of current curriculum expectations and the special opportunities for IT to support the delivery of education.

In Christian community life: (a), (c), (e) and (f) in its focus on IT safety, student responsibility and community growth.

In striving for excellence: (a), (b), (c), and (d) in its focus on provision of resources and development of gifts in service to others.

Policy:

The School will provide appropriate Internet access to staff and students.

Related Policies:

- Information Technology Policy
- Library Policy
- Audiovisual Policy
- Duty of Care Policy
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Principles:

- Educational resources available on the net will be evaluated in line with the Audiovisual Policy to ensure their appropriate use in the context of a Christian School.
- The School will exercise care for student welfare by actively managing access to Internet services to minimise exposure to inappropriate material and activities. To ensure that appropriate access is available, control will be on a group by group basis.
- Staff and student training will be provided to cover practical technology skills, awareness of dangers and appropriate strategies for managing them, finding and utilising resources and opportunities for collaborative work and publishing.
- The School will provide information to support parents who want their children to gain a safe educational benefit from Internet access at home.
- In general the School will supply active Internet access to staff and students only while they are on the School site where active management and monitoring can be assured.