St Thomas More
Acceptable Use Agreement for Digital Technologies–Year Prep to Six

Part A: School profile statement

St Thomas More recognises the need for students to be safe and responsible users of digital technologies. We believe that explicitly teaching students about safe and responsible online behaviours is essential and is best taught in partnership with parents/guardians. We request that parents/guardians work with us to encourage this behaviour at home.

At St Thomas More we:

• support the rights of all members of the school community to engage in and promote a safe, inclusive and supportive learning environment

• have a Student Wellbeing Policy that clearly states our school’s values and the expected standards of student behaviour, including actions and consequences for inappropriate behaviour

• educate our students to be safe and responsible users of digital technologies

• raise our students’ awareness of issues such as online privacy and intellectual property including copyright

• supervise students when using digital technologies for educational purposes

• provide a filtered internet service but acknowledge that full protection from inappropriate content can never be guaranteed

• respond to issues or incidents that have the potential to impact on the wellbeing of our students

• know that some online activities are illegal and as such we are required to report this to the police

• support parents/guardians to understand the importance of safe and responsible use of digital technologies, the potential issues that surround their use and strategies that they can implement at home to support their child

• provide parents/guardians with a copy of this agreement.

St Thomas More’s ‘Acceptable Use Agreement for Digital Technologies’ and ‘Student Wellbeing Policy’ detail the program and procedures that are in place to support safe and responsible use of digital technologies.
Part B: Safe and responsible behaviour

Student Behaviours:

When I use digital technologies I:

- **communicate respectfully** by thinking and checking that what I write or post is polite and respectful.

This means:

- never sending mean or bullying messages or passing them on, as this makes me part of the bullying
- not using actions online to be mean to others. (This can include leaving someone out to make them feel bad)
- not copying someone else’s work or ideas from the internet and presenting them as my own. (I will include the link)
- asking permission from individuals before using photos, sound or video recordings
- protecting my password and not sharing it with others
- only joining a space online with my parent or teacher’s guidance and permission

- **protect personal information** by being aware that my full name, photo, birthday, address and phone number is personal information and not to be shared online.

This means:

- protecting my friends’ information in the same way
- never answering questions online that ask for my personal information.

- **look after myself and others** by thinking about what I share online.

This means:

- never sharing my friends’ full names, birthdays, school names, addresses and phone numbers because this is their personal information
- speaking to a trusted adult if I see something that makes me feel upset or if I need help
- speaking to a trusted adult if someone is unkind to me
- speaking to a trusted adult if I know someone else is upset or scared
- stopping to think about what I post or share online
- using spaces or sites that are right for my age
- not deliberately searching for something rude or violent
- either turn off the screen or use the back button if I see something I don’t like and telling a trusted adult
- being careful with the equipment I use
Part C: Student Commitment:

Definition of Digital Technologies:
This Acceptable Use Agreement applies to digital technologies, social media tools and learning environments established at our school or accessed using school networks or systems, including (although not limited to):

- school owned ICT devices (eg: desktops, laptops, printers, scanners, iPads)
- mobile phones
- email and instant messaging
- Internet, Intranet and Ultranet
- Social networking sites
- Video and photo sharing sites (eg: picassa and youtube)
- Blogs
- Forums, discussion boards and groups
- Wikis
- Vod and podcasts
- Video and web conferences

This Acceptable Use Agreement applies when I am using any of the above digital technologies at school, at home, during school excursions, camps and extra-curricula activities.

I understand and agree to comply with the terms of acceptable use and expected standards of behaviour set out within this agreement. I understand that there are actions and consequences established with the St Thomas More Student Wellbeing Policy if I do not behave appropriately.

For further support with online issues students can call Kids Helpline on 1800 551 800

This agreement will be discussed with students at school. Please discuss the contents of this agreement with the student prior to signing.

Please complete and return to school.

Date: _____/_____/_____
Student name:
____________________________________
Signature:___________________________
Student's Teacher:
____________________________________
Name and signature of Parent or guardian (1):
____________________________________
Contact telephone number:_________________
Name and signature of Parent or guardian(2):
____________________________________
Contact telephone number:_________________

Written by Michelle Turpin based on the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development guidelines, August 2012.