

UPLOADING OF IMAGES INTO PUBLIC DOMAIN INTERNET SITES, INTERNET FORUMS & PHOTOGRAPHY OF PUPILS AND SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHY

This policy is applicable to all pupils, staff, parents, visitors and any individual with access to the School, its pupils, staff, activities and facilities.

For the purpose of this policy web sites should be considered to be in the public domain and are a publication medium. This includes, but is not limited to sites such as: Blogs, Wikis, MySpace and U Tube.

The up-loading of images and footage to public web forums, especially when the material can be misconstrued or considered inappropriate or offensive by viewers of that material may be in violation of State and Federal Law. Up-loading of such material to sites and commentary made by individuals in forums or “chat rooms” constitutes the publication of that material and those comments become public comments which, if inappropriate or offensive, can lead to defamation action through the courts **if the conduct causes a substantial disruption to the educational environment.**

Images of young people and inappropriate or offensive comments on forums or on web sites may also breach State Child Protection laws which become a Police matter and are subject to severe penalties **if the conduct causes a substantial disruption to the educational environment.**

The publication of inappropriate or offensive remarks or images and footage has led to accusations of bullying and harassment. Cyber-bullying will be dealt with as a case of “bullying” and is subject to the School’s Anti-Bullying Policy. Students shall not send or post electronic messages that are abusive, obscene, sexually oriented, threatening, harassing, damaging to another’s reputation, or illegal, including off school property **if the conduct causes a substantial disruption to the educational environment.**

All photos taken and videos made during school times or on school-approved activities must be sanctioned/approved by the most appropriate head of school or faculty coordinator. No image (still or moving) that is, of or is representative of or purports to be of the School, its pupils and/or staff is to be up-loaded to a web site or similar public domain media without the express permission of the Principal or his/her designee.

Approval is given for staff, parents, and pupils to take photos/videos during all school events unless photography is specifically prohibited. All photographers however, are warned that taking inappropriate or offensive images is strictly prohibited.