



FACEBOOK POLICY

Section – Safety Policy No – SAF009

Rationale:

Our school acknowledges that there are increasing numbers of people using social networking sites. The widespread availability and use of social networking applications brings opportunities to understand, engage, and communicate with audiences in new ways.

Aim:

Tyrrell College aims to:

- grow our school and community's understanding of social media and to make connecting with our school more convenient for our families
- allow our community to keep up to date with activities through a medium which is preferred by many
- to seek input (through comments and 'likes') from our families
- build our school community by building our school spirit
- provide a positive focus for our school and bring everyone's attention to the things we do that make our school community great

Policy statement:

The school reserves the right to suspend or cease using Facebook at the discretion of staff and our school council. Where there are issues of a potentially serious criminal nature such as threats or inappropriate comments, the matter will be referred directly to the relevant governing body.

Implementation:

Identifiable accounts -

All users (following or commenting) interacting with Tyrrell College's Facebook page, must do so using a Facebook account that is identifiable.

Posting Comments -

Tyrrell College encourages families to share positive comments in relation to current events. We remind members of our community that there are many issues which are best dealt with privately, in consultation with relevant staff members. Issues involving students or staff must not be raised on our Facebook page. When comments are made we are happy for people to register their support through a Facebook comment or a 'like'. We will however, not support interactions that incite negative sentiments. Names of staff, students, or school community members must not use in any negative postings.

When can I use names in posts?

You can use names in posts when you wish to acknowledge someone's great work or community contribution. Our philosophy is that our Facebook page will be used to build our school spirit, inform our community about our work, and connect people.

How to Interact with the Facebook Page -

Initially, users will be able to comment on the school's postings and on comments made by other users. Users will also be able to 'like' or post a comment by clicking on a button. Users will not be able to author a posting of their own or load media such as video or photos REFERENCES Teacher VIT Professional Code of Conduct.

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/bullystoppers/Pages/socialmedia.aspx> DET Guide to Using Social Media <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/governance/Pages/socialmedia.aspx>

Underage Facebook Users -

Tyrrell College does not endorse children under the age of thirteen years of age (a threshold imposed by Facebook), having their own Facebook account. We encourage children, under parental supervision, to view our school's Facebook page and contribute to content. We believe the conduct of our community members on our Facebook page will serve as a role model for our students on how to behave in social media spaces.

Moderation and Blocklisting -

Tyrrell College reserves the right to set the strength level of the Facebook profanity filter and to add additional words and names to the page's blocklist.

Actions resulting in deliberate breaches to this policy may include prohibiting a user from interacting on the school's Facebook page.

Privacy -

Parental consent for the use of student names and photos will be obtained on enrolment. Parents have the right to change their consent at any time by notifying the General Office in writing.

The Law and Facebook's Terms -

Tyrrell College's Facebook page operates under the Commonwealth Telecommunications Act and Facebook's Terms.

Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed on a three year review cycle.

This Policy will be reviewed in line with DET Guidelines, Tyrrell College's Leadership and Consultative Teams and School Council.

Date Implemented	September 2015
Author	
Approved By	School Council May 2019
Responsible for Review	Principal
Review Date	May 2022
References	http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/governance/pages/socialmedia.aspx