



POLICY

Social Media Policy

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide a safe and supportive learning environment for all students at Firbank Grammar School. This policy aims to outline the response by the School to the misuse of all social media platforms by Students and to ensure that reported events are dealt with promptly and effectively.

Scope

This policy applies to all students, staff, and members of the Firbank Grammar School community. It covers use of social media and use of devices that occurs on school premises, during school-related activities, and online between students, parents and any member of the Firbank Community.

Social Media may include any website or application that enables users to create and share content or participate in social networking such as Facebook, WhatsApp, Instagram, Snap Chat and TikTok.

Policy Outline

With the introduction of the Online Safety Amendment (Social Media Minimum Age) Act 2024, it is crucial for Firbank Grammar School to monitor and enforce appropriate social media use. This legislation mandates the following:

- Students under the age of 14 are prohibited from using social media platforms.
- Students aged 14 and 15 must obtain parental consent to use social media platforms.
- Students aged 16 and above may use social media platforms in accordance with this policy and the Online Safety Amendment (Social Media Minimum Age) Act 2024

Acceptable use of social media in the school environment should support education objectives, Students must not post or share content that is inappropriate, offensive or harmful. Personal information should not be shared publicly on Social Media.

Users are personally responsible for what they write or post online. Whilst it may not be the reality, the public may perceive that the views expressed by a student of Firbank Grammar or member of the Firbank Grammar School community, are the views of the School. Therefore, students, staff and all members of the Firbank Community need to be aware that when engaging with social media platforms, they are representing Firbank Grammar School and its



values. Users must not commit the school to any action or initiative without appropriate authority. They must not use the Firbank Grammar School crest or logo(s), or any other Firbank icons or images on any social media sites. Users must not behave in a way that damages the reputation of the School.

Reporting Concerns

Reports of misuse, cyber bullying or sharing or distribution of inappropriate text messages, videos and images such as photos, clipart and emojis will be taken seriously and responded to immediately at our school.

Students who may be experiencing inappropriate, intimidating or cyberbullying behaviour online via social media, or students who have witnessed inappropriate, intimidating or bullying behaviour online, are encouraged to report their concerns to school staff as soon as possible.

Our ability to effectively reduce and eliminate cyberbullying and inappropriate social media behaviour is greatly affected by students and/or parents and carers reporting concerning behaviour as soon as possible, so that the responses implemented by Firbank Grammar School are timely and appropriate.

We encourage students to speak to their Mentor or Wellbeing Leader. However, students are welcome to discuss their concerns with any trusted member of staff including teachers, wellbeing staff, school counsellors and school psychologists.

Possible Consequences

Firbank Grammar School reserves the right to monitor social media use by all students to ensure compliance with this policy. Incidents of social media misuse or cyberbullying are taken very seriously and dependent on the behaviour could result in:

- meeting with Wellbeing Leader
- restorative practice
- conflict resolution
- parent meeting
- exclusion from school or school activity
- restitution of property
- school suspension
- report to external agencies such as the Police or child protection
- expulsion

Relevant Legislation

Online Safety Amendment (Social Media Minimum Age) Act 2024

Related Policies

Student Bullying Policy

Student Mobile Phone Policy



Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy and Procedure
Privacy Policy
Photography, Video and Recording Of Students

Useful Information

Websites	Helplines	Online Counselling
www.bullyingnoway.gov.au www.headspace.org.au www.kenrigby.net www.kidshelp.com.au www.ncab.org.au/bullyingisserious www.sane.org www.youthbeyondblue.com https://www.cyber.gov.au	Youth beyond blue: 1300 22 4636 Kids Helpline: 1800 55 1800 Lifeline: 13 11 14 Sane Australia: 1800 18 7263	www.kidshelp.com.au

Approval

Policy Issue date	March 2025
Policy Owner	Head of Senior School
Document updated by	Risk and Compliance
Document reviewed by	Heads of Campus/ SLT
Document approved/endorsed by	Principal
Next Review date	March 2028



Help for non-English speakers.
If you need help to understand this policy,
please contact us at
enquiries@firbank.vic.edu.au

The school community may provide feedback on this document by emailing: communications@firbank.vic.edu.au

