



ICT in Catholic schools policy

Rationale

Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) are a ubiquitous aspect of 21st Century society. ICTs provide individuals with almost instantaneous access to unlimited stores of information and the ability to interact with anyone, anywhere at any time.

In schools, ICTs allow *‘teachers and students to access specialised materials well beyond textbooks, in multiple formats, with little time and space constraints’* (OECD, 2015).

It is, therefore, essential that as part of the Church’s mission for education, Catholic Schools enable educators and students to become discerning individuals, capable of safely navigating the growing world of digital information, and who are readily able to evaluate and adopt contemporary and emerging technologies to meet their personal, professional and educational needs.

Values

“The internet offers extensive knowledge, but it does not teach values; and when values are disregarded, our very humanity is demeaned...” - POPE JOHN PAUL II

As Catholics we believe that equitable access to and use of ICTs within and between school communities aids in the building of community and the sharing of wisdom. We also believe that opportunities offered through using contemporary ICTs build individuals and act in a manner that is safe, that respects the human dignity of all people and enhances our relationship with others and with God.

Policy statement

All Catholic schools, with support from the Catholic Education Office, are to plan for and provide educators and students with the contemporary ICTs needed to support 21st-century pedagogies and equip children with the 21st-century skills they need to learn and succeed in today and tomorrow’s world.

All educators and students in Catholic schools are to engage in the use of contemporary ICTs to enhance teaching and learning.

Consequences

- All schools and the Catholic Schools Office will develop strategic direction that includes both short and long term goals and targets for using contemporary and emerging ICTs in learning, teaching and administration.
- Schools and the Catholic Schools Office are to allocate funding for infrastructure, equipment and professional development of all staff, to ensure equitable access for all users of ICT.
- All staff are to be provided with opportunities to continually develop their digital literacy skills, in particular, targeted professional development opportunities are to be provided for teachers in the effective use of ICTs as a learning and teaching tool.
- The Catholic Schools Office is to support and assist schools in the implementation of their plans to embed contemporary ICTs in learning, teaching and administration.
- The Catholic Schools Office is to consult with and facilitate the ongoing development of contemporary ICTs infrastructure and equipment in Catholic schools in the Diocese to support learning, teaching and administration.
- All schools are to review teaching and learning practices and curriculum programs through established school renewal and improvement processes to continually renew and embed contemporary and authentic approaches to the effective use of ICTs.

Most Reverend Robert McGuckin | Bishop of Toowoomba