



## Social Media Policy

**POLICY OWNER:** Principal

**APPROVED BY:** SLT

**REVIEW DATE:** November 2019

## 1. INTRODUCTION

All members of the Hume Anglican Grammar community, including students, parents, teachers and non-teaching staff, have the right to benefit from the opportunities that exist from being members of our community. They should all behave within and outside of the School in such a manner that the image of the School is not negatively affected or brought into disrepute.

Hume Anglican Grammar accepts that the responsible use of Social Media can be an effective business, educational and social tool and that such media is commonly used by members of the school community to express their views, comments, ideas and to provide feedback on a whole range of issues.

## 2. PURPOSE

Hume Anglican Grammar expects those who are a part of the community, when using Social Media, will show courtesy and respect to others, including to other school community members. Social Media should not be used to abuse others, expose them to offensive or inappropriate content or to denigrate or show disrespect towards Hume Anglican Grammar. Furthermore, it is very important that all members of the school and wider communities recognise that Hume Anglican Grammar is absolutely committed to **zero tolerance of child abuse**. Therefore, social media that contributes to child abuse or brings it to the attention of the School, will be immediately acted upon.

The purpose of this policy is to set standards of behaviour for the use of Social Media that are consistent with the broader values and expectations of the Hume Anglican Grammar community.

## 3. SCOPE

This policy applies to all Hume Anglican Grammar school community members.

## 4. ALIGNMENT TO THE STRATEGIC PLAN

### Goal:

- 4. Parents  
Engaging families and forging strong relationships
- 3. Staff – professional and dedicated staff committed to the success of the school

### Pathways:

- e. Encourage active involvement in their child's educational experience and develop community spirit
- c. Establish a supportive and collegial workplace culture based upon optimism, respect and professionalism

### DESIRED OUTCOMES:

- 2. Be recognised in our community as a school of choice providing a relevant, progressive and prized education, and valued for its contribution

## 1. 4. ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

*Victorian Institute of Teaching - Teaching Profession Code of Conduct*

*Hume Anglican Grammar Child Safety policy*

*Hume Anglican Grammar Child Safety Code of Conduct*

*Hume Anglican Grammar Staff ICT Device policy*

*Hume Anglican Grammar Information and Communication Technologies policy*

*Hume Anglican Grammar Staff Professional Expectations policy*

## 3.0 DEFINITIONS

**Child abuse** – All abuse harms children. Even injuries that are not visible can be profound. They strike at a child's sense of identity, make them fearful and ashamed, and reduce their ability to participate in their community.

Child abuse includes –

- Any act committed against a child involving –
  - a sexual offence;
  - an offence under section 49M) of the *Crimes Act 1958 (grooming)*
  - encouraging a child under the age of 16 to engage in, or be involved in, sexual activity;
  - encouraging a child aged 16 or 17 under care, supervision or authority to engage in, or be involved in, sexual activity
- 
- the infliction, on a child, of –
  - physical violence or
  - serious emotional harm
- serious neglect of a child

**Social Media** – refers to all social networking sites, platforms or forums.

## **5.0 RIGHTS and RESPONSIBILITIES**

Members of the Hume Anglican Grammar community are expected to give due respect to the reputation and good name of the School.

When using Social Media, our community is expected to ensure that they:

- Respect the rights and confidentiality of others.
- Do not impersonate or falsely represent another person
- Do not bully, intimidate, harass or threaten others
- Do not make defamatory comments
- Do not use obscene or offensive language towards others
- Do not post content that is hateful, threatening, pornographic or incites violence against others
- Do not harm the reputation and good standing of Hume Anglican Grammar or those within its community
- Do not post comments that may discriminate against another person or group, this includes any discrimination related to a disability, race, religion, culture, sexuality or gender
- Do not post an image of another community member without their knowledge or consent
- Do not misuse social media to facilitate child abuse

## **6.0 BREACH OF THIS POLICY**

A breach of this policy may also involve a breach of other Hume Anglican Grammar policies or guidelines such as:

- ICT policy
- Child Safety policy
- Anti-bullying policy
- Staff Professional Expectations policy

Any breach of this policy will be reviewed by the Principal or their delegate, such as the Deputy Principal or Assistant Principals, and will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

All reports of cyber bullying and other technology misuses will be investigated and may result in a notification to Police where the School is legally obliged to do so. Sanctions may include, but are not limited to, the loss of computer privileges, detention, suspension, or expulsion from the School. Students must be aware that in certain circumstances where a crime has been committed, they may be subjected to a criminal investigation by police over which the School will have no control.

Parents who breach this policy may be asked to withdraw their child from the School in cases which adversely reflect negatively upon the good reputation of the School.

## **7.0 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE POLICY**

The policy is publicly available on the School website and through SIMON.