

Parent Information

On the EICS POD Network

Elk Island Catholic School Division is opening up the Personally-Owned Devices (POD) Network. Students have the option of bringing personal wireless devices to school to access the network in order to support their own learning.

With the enhanced access, we must also be reminded that the Internet has both positive and negative aspects. The Elk Island Catholic School Division's **Responsible Use Agreement** applies to the POD Network as it does the school network.

Use Agreement:

- Students have the option of bringing their own wireless devices to use for learning throughout the school day.
 - Students must adhere to the user agreement when using their wireless device in the school and should only be used to support the instructional activities currently occurring in the school environment, and under specific direction of the teacher.
 - Students should be aware that the use of mobile devices could cause distraction for others, especially in regards to audio. Therefore, audio must be muted unless otherwise directed by a school authority.
 - Student devices with camera and video capability must not be used to impinge upon the privacy of students and staff.
 - All content on Personally-Owned Devices must meet the standard as outlined in the School Division's **Responsible Use Agreement**.
 - Students are responsible for all content on any of their own wireless devices; the school division is not providing special software.
 - Personally-Owned Devices can only store data belonging to the owner of the device. Saving personal data of another individual is governed by FOIPP laws.
 - The School Division will not be held responsible in any capacity for physical damage, loss or theft of any Personally-Owned Device.
 - The parents and/or guardians of any student bringing personal technology to school are responsible for any damage that their child may cause through the use of the POD network with his/her Personally-Owned Device.
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Responsible Use:

At Elk Island Catholic Schools, we use information and technology in safe, legal, and responsible ways. **Digital citizenship** education cannot STOP all the negative things that can occur through improper use of technology but building awareness can reduce them. It is important that we educate our students to use technology responsibly.

We embrace the following conditions of being a digital citizen while using the POD network:

- **Respect Yourself.** I will select online names that are appropriate; I will consider the information and images that I post online; I will remember that my digital footprint is permanent.
- **Protect Yourself.** I will not publish my personal details, contact details or a schedule of my activities.
- **Respect Others.** I will not use technologies to bully, defame, or tease other people.
- **Protect Others.** I will protect others by reporting abuse and not forwarding inappropriate materials or communications, nor share their personal information without their consent.
- **Respect Intellectual Property.** I will suitably cite any and all use of websites, books, media, etc.
- **Protect Intellectual Property.** I will request permission to use the software and media that others produce.

Information for parents to help their children stay safe while benefiting from learning on the Internet: <http://www.media-awareness.ca/english/parents/index.cfm>.

Please refer to the [Media Awareness site for Internet Safety information for Parents](#), including the Legal Fact Sheet below:

How the Law Addresses Cyberbullying

Cyberbullying can be addressed under civil law or criminal law, based on the situation.

Civil law: *This is the branch of law that deals with property rights, personal dignity and freedom from injury. Under civil law, there are three approaches to cyberbullying:*

1. *A cyberbully may be engaged in **defamation**. This is when the bully causes harm to someone's reputation by spreading false information about that person. In general, defamation that appears temporarily (as unrecorded speech or in a live broadcast) is called **slander**, and defamation that appears permanently (in a book or on a Web site) is called **libel**.*

To be libellous a statement must: do harm to someone's reputation, have a clear and obvious target, and be seen by people other than the person making the statement and the target.

*In libel cases, the target can lay a suit against the person making the statement. If the suit is successful, the person making the statement will have to pay **damages** (money) to the target.*

A person accused of libel may defend himself or herself by saying that the statement was **true**, that it was a **fair comment** (a genuine criticism, not a personal attack), or that he or she **innocently reproduced** the statement without knowing what it was.

2. A perpetrator may be creating an **unsafe environment** by making the target feel that she or he cannot go to school without facing violence, teasing or exclusion. Schools and workplaces are required to provide a safe environment for their students or employees, and must take any appropriate action to do so. A school, therefore, might punish a student for online behaviour that is making it hard for other students to learn in a safe environment. In Ontario, the Safe Schools Act has been changed to specifically include online behaviour: students can now be suspended or expelled for cyberbullying, even if it is done outside the school.

A school or workplace that does not do everything it can to provide a safe environment can be sued by the target(s). Even if a statement is not libellous, spreading it around might still create an unsafe environment.

3. Finally, a person is responsible for any consequences that he or she might **reasonably have guessed would happen**. Therefore, a perpetrator who suggests that a depressed student should kill herself would be liable if the student actually did kill herself, as long as the perpetrator had reason to believe it was a likely result.

Criminal law: This branch of law determines which actions are **crimes against the state**. In criminal law, there are two approaches to cyberbullying:

1. **Harassment** is a crime under the Criminal Code. Harassment is when something a person says or does makes someone fear for his or her safety, or for the safety of others. **Even if the perpetrator did not intend to frighten someone, she or he can be charged with harassment if the target feels threatened.** Criminal harassment is punishable by up to 10 years in prison.
2. **Defamatory libel** is a crime under the Criminal Code. It is most often treated as a crime if the libellous statement is directed against a person in authority and could seriously harm his or her reputation. Defamatory libel is punishable by up to five years in prison.

Section 2 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms guarantees freedom of expression. However, this right is guaranteed “subject only to such reasonable limits prescribed by law as can be demonstrably justified in a free and democratic society” and, in the case of cyberbullying, must be weighed against Section 7. The latter section guarantees “the right to life, liberty and security of the person.” In general, Section 2 of the Charter has not been accepted as a defence in civil or criminal bullying cases.

TIPS for parents:

- Sexting: [Considerations and Canadian Youth](#) (Critical to read this to your children!)
- Before registering students on any Social Media, check out the Terms of Service for compliance with age, privacy, and copyrights restrictions.

Tip Facebook Registration and Account Security #5. You will not use Facebook if you are under 13.

<http://www.facebook.com/legal/terms> Terms of Service

Tip What you say on Twitter may be viewed all around the world instantly. You are what you Tweet!

<https://twitter.com/tos> Terms of Service

- Resources for parents: <http://www.cyber-safety.com/parents.html>

