STUDENT SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY & PROCEDURE

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1. **Purpose**

This Policy outlines expectations for student conduct on social media and digital platforms to ensure a respectful, safe, and Islamically appropriate online environment. It aims to protect the integrity, reputation, and safety of all members of the College community, both on and off campus, in alignment with College values and the broader legislative framework, including the *Online Safety Act 2021* and the *Online Safety Amendment (Social Media Minimum Age) Act 2024*, which requires platforms to prevent under-16s from holding accounts from **10 December 2025**.

2. **Scope**

This Policy applies to all students enrolled at Australian Islamic College, across all its schools, and covers students:
▪ During and outside school hours
▪ On school grounds and off campus
▪ Using school-provided or personal devices
▪ On public or private digital platforms where conduct may impact the College community

3. **Definitions**

Social media: Includes all online platforms and tools that allow users to create, share, or interact with content and people, including but not limited to:
▪ Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, Snapchat, X, YouTube, Reddit, Threads, Twitch, Kick, LinkedIn, Google+, and similar platforms.
▪ Messaging and content-sharing apps such as Google Classroom, Microsoft Teams, WhatsApp, Discord, or Telegram.
▪ Email, blogs, forums, online games, and mobile device applications used for communication or social networking.

4. **Policy Statement**

Australian Islamic College expects all students to:
▪ Uphold Islamic values of respect, honesty, modesty, and responsibility in all online interactions
▪ Use digital platforms in a lawful, ethical, and respectful manner
▪ Protect the reputation and integrity of the College and its community
▪ Understand that online behaviour, even outside school hours, can have serious consequences if it impacts others or the College

The College maintains a **zero-tolerance approach to online harm**, including cyberbullying, harassment, impersonation, and the sharing of inappropriate or harmful content.

5. **Student Responsibilities**

General Expectations
All students must:
▪ Treat staff, students, and community members with respect in all online interactions
▪ Act in a manner consistent with Islamic conduct (*akhlaq*) and College values
▪ Understand that private accounts or content may still be subject to this Policy if they affect the College community
▪ Report concerning, harmful, or inappropriate online behaviour to a trusted adult or College staff member

Prohibited Conduct
Students must **not**:
▪ Engage in cyberbullying, harassment, threats, intimidation, or humiliation of others
▪ Use offensive, discriminatory, defamatory, or Islamically inappropriate language, images, or symbols
▪ Impersonate others, create fake accounts, or misrepresent their identity or association with the College
▪ Share or distribute images, videos, or recordings without explicit consent and, where applicable, College approval
▪ Create or engage with content that promotes violence, hatred, discrimination, or unlawful behaviour
▪ ***Bypass age restrictions or access social media platforms in breach of Australian law***

6.   Age Restrictions & Legal Compliance (Under 16s)

In accordance with the *Online Safety Amendment (Social Media Minimum Age) Act 2024*:
- **Students under 16 years of age must not create, hold, or maintain accounts on age-restricted social media platforms from 10 December 2025**
- This includes, but is not limited to: Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, Snapchat, X, YouTube, Reddit, Threads, Twitch, and Kick
- Educational platforms or accounts approved and supervised by the College (e.g. Microsoft Teams, Google Classroom) are exempt where used strictly for learning purposes

Parents and carers are encouraged to actively monitor and support their child's digital behaviour and compliance with the law.

7.   CCTV & Digital Monitoring

Australian Islamic College utilises CCTV systems and digital monitoring to:
- Support student safety and wellbeing
- Assist with incident investigation and emergency response
- Maintain a secure learning environment

CCTV cameras are **not installed in private areas** such as restrooms or staff rooms. Any intentional damage or tampering with CCTV equipment may result in disciplinary action and financial liability for repair or replacement

8.   Breach of Policy

Any breach of this policy may result in:
- Review by the Principal or delegated authorities (e.g. Deputy Principal, Dean of Students, Behavior Coordinator).
- Disciplinary action ranging from verbal warnings to suspension or expulsion.
- Reporting to law enforcement agencies where illegal conduct is suspected (e.g. cyberbullying, threats, harassment).
- Restriction or loss of digital access privileges within the College.

9.   Relevant Legislation and Related Policies

- Online Safety Amendment (Social Media Minimum Age) Act 2024 (Cth)
- Online Safety Act 2021 (Cth)
- Privacy Act 1988 (Cth)

10.   Relevant Internal References

- Computer & Internet Acceptable Use Policy
- Student Behavior & Welfare Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Student Suspension & Termination Policy & Procedure
- Student Electronic & Mobile Phone Policy

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Approved by: [Executive Principal]
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