Montmorency Secondary College
Cyber Bullying
POLICY

Please Note: This policy should be read in conjunction with the college's Anti-Bullying policy.

Rationale:

Montmorency Secondary College is committed to providing a safe and caring learning environment where bullying is not accepted. All school community members have the right to expect respect from one another; all students have the right to learn in a safe environment; all school staff have the right to work in a safe, respectful workplace. **Cyber bullying**, which involves the use of technology to bully, will not be tolerated at any level and significant sanctions will apply to students or staff who choose to bully others in this way.

Definition:

Bullying is when one or more people deliberately set out to tease, put down, exclude, intimidate, threaten and/or hurt another person or group of people. It can be the result of a 'one-off' incident but more typically involves repeated unwelcome or hurtful actions. **Cyber bullying** is bullying that is carried out through an Internet service, such as email, social networking sites, chat rooms, discussion groups or instant messaging; or via mobile phone technologies such as short messaging service (SMS) or the taking and/or broadcasting of improper photos or videos. It includes the creation, joining or commenting on inappropriate or hurtful pages on sites such as Facebook or MySpace.

Aims:

- To promote a safe school environment that proactively works to develop respect & cooperation.
- To educate the school community in relation to cyber bullying, and the fact that it is unacceptable.
- For everyone in the school community to be alert to signs and evidence of cyber bullying and to ensure that is reported to staff, whether as observer or victim.
- To ensure that all reported incidents of cyber bullying are investigated appropriately and that support is given to both victims and perpetrators.
- To seek parental and peer-group support and co-operation at all times.

Implementation:

- Parents, teachers, students and the community will be aware of the school's position on cyber bullying. Teachers will be regularly reminded of their duty of care regarding protection of students from all forms of bullying.
- The school will adopt a **four-phase approach** to bullying that includes: *Proactive Prevention*, *Early Intervention*, *Support Structures* and *Consequences*.

Please refer to the **MSC Anti-Bullying Policy***, ratified August 2009 for a detailed explanation of the college's four-phase approach to bullying.*

Evaluation:

This policy will be reviewed with whole staff, student, parent and community input as part of the school's three-year review cycle.

This policy was last ratified by School Council in....	**June 2010**

References: Safe Schools are Effective Schools booklet
www.curriculum.edu.au/mindmatters
S428-2007 Cyber Bullying – Updating the Student Code of Conduct
www.bullyingnoway.com.au
http://www.education.vic.gov.au/healthwellbeing/safety/bullying/cyber/default.htm