



VERITAS COLLEGIATE ACADEMY

Cyber Policy for Veritas Collegiate Academy

Introduction:

At Veritas Collegiate Academy, we hold firm to our commitment to fostering a nurturing and respectful learning environment that reflects our Christian values and promotes the strong character of our students. As a Christian institution, we believe that our mission is not only to educate academically but also to develop the moral character and integrity of each student. Behavior that is threatening, abusive, bullying, or sexual in nature is inconsistent with our school's mission and vision. In light of this, we are implementing this Cyber Policy to provide clear expectations for online conduct and to ensure that our digital community aligns with the principles of respect, compassion, and kindness that we uphold.

Purpose:

The purpose of this Cyber Policy is to establish clear guidelines and expectations for student behavior in online environments, particularly regarding the use of social media. Veritas Collegiate Academy is committed to providing a safe and supportive educational environment, and this policy aims to foster a respectful digital community.

Scope:

This policy applies to all students at Veritas Collegiate Academy and covers all forms of digital communication, including social media platforms, email, texting, and other online interactions, both on and off campus.

Policy Guidelines:

1. Respectful Communication:

- All students are expected to communicate respectfully and thoughtfully in online environments. This includes refraining from using language or images that are threatening, abusive, bullying, or sexual in nature.

2. Social Media Conduct:

- Students should exercise caution and integrity when using social media. The following behaviors are strictly prohibited:
 - Threatening or intimidating others.
 - Engaging in harassing or bullying behavior.

- Using sexual language or imagery that is inappropriate or offensive.
- Sharing, endorsing, or participating in any form of cyberbullying.

3. Reporting and Accountability:

- Students are encouraged to report any incidents of threatening, abusive, or bullying behavior they encounter or observe in online environments. Reports can be made to a teacher, school administrator, or designated trusted adult.
- Confidentiality will be respected, and the school will take appropriate measures to investigate all reports of misconduct.

4. Consequences for Violations:

- Any student found to be in violation of this Cyber Policy will be subject to disciplinary action. The severity of the disciplinary measures will depend on the nature and seriousness of the infraction as interpreted by the Head of School. Potential consequences may include but are not limited to:
 - Verbal or written warnings.
 - Mandatory counseling or participation in a conflict resolution program.
 - Suspension from school activities.
 - Expulsion from Veritas Collegiate Academy.

5. Education and Awareness:

- Veritas Collegiate Academy is committed to educating students about responsible online behavior. Regular workshops, presentations, and discussions will be organized to raise awareness about cyber safety, digital citizenship, and the importance of a positive online presence. Additionally, parents are given the Biblical mandate to oversee their children, and as such, should educate and watch over their children's social media and cyber media.

6. Social Media Operations:

Students are encouraged to utilize social media to positively represent themselves and Veritas Collegiate Academy. When posting about school events or activities, students should maintain professionalism and uphold the values of our community. Additionally, Students must refrain from using language or images that are threatening, abusive, bullying, or sexual in nature while on Social Media. Students will be held accountable for this whether on campus or off campus. Veritas Collegiate Academy believes that a safe, respectful, and positive online environment enhances the educational experience for all students. By adhering to this Cyber Policy, students contribute to a healthy learning atmosphere both in the physical and digital realms. The school maintains the right to amend this policy as needed to adapt to changing circumstances and to better serve the Veritas community.