Statement

MacKillop Catholic College supports a framework for fostering information literacy and embedding information literacy skills in the design and teaching of its curriculum. This framework will support a lifelong learning approach to education.

Definition

Information literacy is the extent to which a person is able to:

- recognise the need for information;
- determine the nature and extent of information required;
- access the information required;
- evaluate the information;
- incorporate new information into their knowledge base; and
- understand the importance of intellectual property.

Rationale

Today’s learners exist within a knowledge society, where information is a commodity. Never before in history have people had so much access to diverse, abundant and often unfiltered information sources. Students must learn to be discriminating in selecting their information sources. Ready access to information sources presents special problems in using information in a moral and legal manner. Learners must take particular care to ensure that the rights of authors to their intellectual property are upheld. The uncertain quality of information sources gives rise to questions about authenticity, validity and reliability. Learners need to ensure that the information with which they are presented is factual, appropriate and from a source that is trustworthy. Information literacy is an essential component of lifelong learning. It enables learners to engage more critically with content and extend their investigations, become more self-directed and assume greater control over their own learning. The development of information literacy skills: multiplies the opportunities for self-directed learning; engages students in using a wide variety of information sources to expand their knowledge; encourages them to ask informed questions and sharpens their critical thinking.

Guidelines

1. Students will be taught the explicit skills and actions required to develop information literacy.
2. The College will ensure that ready access to multiple sources of information is maintained.
3. The College will develop an information literacy program to provide students at each year level with specific skills that can be transferred to all learning areas.
4. The College will support an inquiry approach to curriculum which stresses the investigation of questions that lead to deep understanding and creative problem solving.
5. Collaborative planning between subject teachers and the teacher librarian will ensure that students are given regular and frequent opportunities to develop and apply information literacy skills.
6. The College will develop and require adherence to an appropriate standard of referencing information in the form of bibliographies and citations and create awareness of plagiarism.
7. Students will be encouraged to use information with an understanding of the economic, legal, social, cultural and moral implications of such use.