

DECV - Social Media Policy

The DECV recognises that the advent and use of social media has opened up new ways for students, teachers, parents and other stakeholders to learn, teach, facilitate and communicate. Social media tools also allow for the building and maintaining of a dynamic sense of community.

The use of social media in teaching and learning programs is encouraged as a way to build peer-to-peer, teacher-to-student and whole-class understanding and communication.

The DECV also recognizes the need for oversight and professional responsibility in the ways that social media tools are and may be used in the distance education setting.

Teachers must ensure that when using social media in an education setting, their behaviour should reflect the same standards of honesty, respect, and consideration that would be used in a classroom.

Specific guidelines for student usage and behaviour expectations should be published and agreed to by student participants.

When social media tools “external” to the DECV Learning Management System are deemed appropriate for student learning and interaction, teachers must ensure that:

- privacy and safety are of paramount concern, with student identification minimised
- every effort is made to control membership of the site/group
- students have a clear understanding of the purpose and use of the social media tool and agree to usage guidelines
- the teacher has administrative rights to moderate comments
- as far as possible, sites/postings are “hidden” from the general public
- the use of any social media tool is known to DECV management (including admin rights).