Document Name and	Policy 11.4 Ethics of VLE usage in Blended Learning
Version	Programmes Incorporating: Copyright and Intellectual
	Property Rights
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	consistency with staff contracts introduced in 2021/2022
	academic year.

1. Preliminary

- 1.1. Blended learning utilises technology to enhance traditional learning practices. It includes both face-to-face and online elements to create a unified teaching and learning experience for learners and staff. One consequence of integrating (or blending) learning in this way is that traditional ways of thinking and acting may need to be reappraised, to ensure that they fit with a blended environment.
- 1.2. This policy encourages IICP College learners and staff to rethink existing policy in an online and blended learning context. It extends and clarifies IICP College QAM in relation to the Ethics of Virtual Learning Environment [VLE] usage in Blended Learning Programmes.
- 1.3. Attention is drawn in particular to the following policies, all of which apply equally to blended and Traditional learning environments:
 - 1.3.1. QAM Policy 3.3 Academic and Professional Integrity Policy.
 - 1.3.2. QAM Policy 3.4 Academic and Professional Impropriety Policy and Procedures.
 - 1.3.3. QAM Policy 3.10 Data Protection in Assessments.
 - 1.3.4. QAM Policy 3.12 Policy and Procedure on Moodle Copyright and Usage.
 - 1.3.5. QAM Policy 5.2 Learner's Code of Conduct.
 - 1.3.6. QAM Policy 5.6 Policy and Procedures on Internet, Social Media and Email use.
 - 1.3.7. QAM Policy 5.7 Dignity and Respect.

2. Scope

2.1. This policy applies to all Blended Learning Programmes at IICP College.

3. Purpose

3.1. This policy extends and clarifies Codes of Practice and Codes of Conduct applicable to IICP College's blended learning environment.

4. Policy

- 4.1. Blended learning provides multiple opportunities for collaboration within and between class groups, including sharing of resources and information. IICP College encourages this sharing of resources and information.
- 4.2. The use of information in a blended learning environment carries with it a responsibility to ensure that this use is legal and ethical, and is in accordance with the IICP Quality principles, policies and procedures contained in its QAM.
- 4.3. This policy highlights additional considerations for ethical use of information in a blended learning environment in IICP College.

5. Procedure

- 5.1. Policy on the Recording of Lectures and other Teaching and Learning Activities
 - 5.1.1. Prior to the beginning of each Semester, teaching staff will be informed that recordings will be made if their teaching and learning activities take place in a location containing appropriate technology.
 - 5.1.2. Recordings will, by default, be available only to learners who are registered on the unit for which the recording was made, unless requests are made by the teaching staff involved to make the recordings more widely available (to learners on other years or programmes).
 - 5.1.3. All recordings will be subject to IICP College's Data Protection policies and procedures.

5.2. Intellectual Property Rights (IPR): Policy on Ownership of Digital Learning Resources

- 5.2.1. The ownership of Digital Educational Resources is a matter of contract between the College and its staff. The general principles set out here should be interpreted in the context of individual contracts, which are the primary source for determining IPR.
- 5.2.2. Where design, development or dissemination of the digital educational resources involve Significant Use of College Resources then ownership rests with IICP College. This includes resources produced by employees; or where curricular or pedagogical design occurred through the College; or where a programme has been accredited/validated by the College. In this case the College owns the digital educational resource.
- 5.2.3. Where design, development, or dissemination of the digital educational resource involve Insignificant Use of College Resources then ownership rests with the teacher, with usage rights granted to the College. This includes use that

- is confined to access to College-owned classrooms, library resources and technical support. The teacher owns the digital educational resource and grants the College non-exclusive rights to use the digital educational resource.
- 5.2.4. IICP College recognises that learners retain intellectual property rights to the work that they have exclusively created, subject to the College's rights and responsibilities in relation to that material, in particular in relation to assessment, certification, programme review and institutional review requirements. In addition, the College's right to reproduce and distribute a learner's work is contained in the Irish Copyright Act 2000 (and amendments). This Act is available here: https://www.oireachtas.ie/documents/bills28/acts/2000/a2800.pdf.
- 5.2.5. In relation to dissertations, attention is drawn to QAM Policy 3.11 Policy and Procedure on Dissertation Publication and Dissemination.

5.3. Policy on Copyright

- 5.3.1. In order to ensure that we respect copyright laws and regulations, it is important to think about what copyright means. According to the Copyright Alliance, "A copyright is a collection of rights that *automatically* vest to someone who creates an original work of authorship like a literary work, song, movie or software. These rights include the right to reproduce the work, to prepare derivative works, to distribute copies, and to perform and display the work publicly."
- 5.3.2. Not everything that is printed or on a website has a copyright attached to it. Things that the website did not create, such as common widgets, are not copyrightable by the website unless that site created them. Other things, such as articles, stories, pictures and databases can have copyrights attached to them.
- 5.3.3. Copyright arises automatically on the creation of an original work. Therefore, even if the work does not state its copyright it is safest to assume that it is copyright. Subject to certain exceptions, copyright gives the creator the right to prevent others from exploiting the work in various ways without permission.
- 5.3.4. In order to understand the copyright obligations that govern use of a text it can be helpful to follow the following steps. These steps are similar to those used when checking for a reference.
 - When using hard copy documents, check the document carefully for copyright information.
 - When using online resources, scan the site for details of a copyright policy. This may be located at the top or bottom of the home page.
 - Look for a Creative Commons licence on the site. Creative Commons (CC)
 licences are public copyright licences that answer the question, "What can I do with this work?" A CC licence is used when an author wants to give other

¹ The Copyright Alliance (2019). Copyright Basics. Retrieved from https://copyrightalliance.org/ca_faq_post/what-is-copyright/

people the right to share, use and/or build upon a work that the author has created. There are different CC licences, which are explained on the Creative Commons website².

• If there is no obvious copyright policy, they try Google. Enter the organisation's name and "copyright policy" into Google.

If the copyright information cannot be found then it is best to assume that the work is copyrighted, and act accordingly.

- 5.3.5. Copyright is a legal identification of the rights of a creator of work. It is important also to consider the ethics of use. These ethics have been codified and introduced in Ireland as a result of European Directives aimed at harmonising copyright law throughout the European Union in the Copyright & Related Rights Act 2000. These principles apply in relation to all use such as referencing and citing the works of others in academic writing:
 - 1. **The Paternity Right**, which is the right to be identified as the author of the work.
 - 2. **The Integrity Right**, which is the right to prevent mutilation, distortion or other derogatory alteration of the work which would prejudice the artist's reputation.
 - 3. **The Right of False Attribution**, which is the artist's right not to have a work falsely attributed.
- 5.3.6. There are some exceptions to copyright. Generally, fair usage and educational usage have some leniency as regards strict copyright requirements. These are detailed in the section Supporting Documentation.

5.4. <u>Digital Wellbeing and Digital Footprints</u>

- 5.4.1. *Digital wellbeing* is defined as "understanding the nature of your online self, data and information, privacy and protection and taking care of yourself, others and information in ways that are ethical and respectful"³.
 - 5.4.1.1. Prior to engaging with a Blended Learning Programme, learners should read, understand and undertake to apply the IICP College ethos, policies and procedures to their online communications. In particular, learner's attention is drawn to QAM Policy 5.6 Policy and Procedures on Internet, Social Media and Email use.

² Creative Commons (2019). About CC Licenses. Retrieved from https://creativecommons.org/about/cclicenses/

³ Guide to Developing Enabling Policies for Digital Teaching and Learning in Higher Education (Murphy, 2018). National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning. Retrieved from: https://www.teachingandlearning.ie/publication/guide-to-developing-enabling-policies-for-digital-teaching-and-learning/ p. 21

- 5.4.2. *Digital footprint* is a measure of what information is available online about an individual as a result of their online activity⁴.
 - 5.4.2.1. It is important to remember that every time a person engages in an online activity they create a footprint, which can be permanent. Anonymity, privacy, control of personal data, and related protections can be ideals rather than actual reality. Therefore, it is important to think about what your digital footprint says about you. Your digital reputation is directly related to the digital footprint you leave behind.
 - 5.4.2.2. All members of IICP College should consider the potentially public and permanent nature of online communication. The focus is not on avoiding such communication, but on building a positive digital presence.
- 5.4.3. The following information from the Australian Government eSafety website⁵ is a useful guide to protecting your digital reputation:

"A poor digital reputation can affect your friendships, relationships and even your job prospects, so it is very important that you are aware of what picture you are painting of yourself online and protect your digital reputation today.

What do I need to know?

- Once information makes its way online it can be difficult to remove and can be easily and quickly shared around.
- Images and words can be misinterpreted and altered as they are passed around.
- Content intended for your small group of friends can cause issues when shared with others outside the group.
- You need to consider how you manage both your messages and images and those of others.
- Your privacy settings on social media sites need to be managed in order to protect your digital reputation.

Protecting your digital reputation:

- Stop and think about any content before you post or send.
- Treat others online as you would like to be treated.
- Set your profile to private and check every now and then to make sure the settings haven't changed.

⁴ Guide to Developing Enabling Policies for Digital Teaching and Learning in Higher Education (Murphy, 2018)/ National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning. Retrieved from:

https://www.teachingandlearning.ie/publication/guide-to-developing-enabling-policies-for-digital-teaching-and-learning/ p. 21

⁵ The eSafety Commissioner, Australia. Retrieved from: https://www.esafety.gov.au/esafety-information/esafety-issues/digital-reputation

• Keep an eye on photos tagged by your friends and remove ones that are offensive.

Remember your online information could be there forever and your personal information may end up being seen by people you don't know, including potential employers."

6. Supporting Documentation

6.1. Fair usage and educational usage of copyright material



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