



Shepparton East Primary School

Policy: **ACCEPTABLE USE FOR THE INTERNET
AND DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES**

Approved at School Council Meeting: July 2020

Review: 2022

I. POLICY STATEMENT

The internet, combined with the school's mobile devices program, offers huge potential benefits for teaching and learning. It offers wonderful opportunities for students and teachers to contribute to the world community on the web. Blogs, social networking spaces such as Face book and instant messaging tools such as MS Messenger are now part of students' and staff 'life on the web'.

Students and teachers can:

- explore the world online
- visit museums and libraries around the world
- access rich information resources to support research and investigations
- communicate and collaborate with people all over the world
- publish to the web

Shepparton East PS plays an important role in preparing students for these 'online communities', even though students and teachers may not access some online communities at school (e.g. Facebook). We believe the teaching of cybersafe and responsible online behaviour is best taught in partnership between home and school. To guide and assist this partnership, the schools anti-bullying policies are in line with the eSmart Programme.

Before our students start to use school provided devices to explore the Internet, it's crucial to make sure everyone understands what they should and shouldn't be doing online. Safe and responsible behaviour is explicitly taught at our school and parents/carers are requested to reinforce this behaviour at home.

Behaving safely online means:

- protecting their own privacy and personal information (we used to call it 'stranger danger')
- selecting appropriate spaces to work and contribute
- protecting the privacy of others (this can be sharing personal information or images)
- being proactive in letting someone know if something is 'not quite right' - at home this would be a parent or guardian, at school a teacher

These principles of safety and responsibility are not specific for the web but certainly apply to the use of internet at school. Just as in the real world, the virtual world of the internet involves some risks. Our school has developed proactive strategies that help to minimise these risks to our students.

2. GUIDELINES

- 2.1 Use of the school's devices and/or network to access the Internet and Internet services, including electronic mail and the World Wide Web, will be governed by an Acceptable Use Procedures (AUP) for the Internet and mobile devices.
- 2.2 The Acceptable Use Procedures (AUP) is intended to encourage responsible maintenance and use of devices and to reflect a respect for the ability of its adherents to exercise good judgement.
- 2.3 Release of devices to students and independent student use of the internet at school will only be permitted where students and their parents/carers provide written acknowledgement that students agree to act in accordance with the conditions of loan and standards of conduct established in the Acceptable Use Procedures.
- 2.4 While we do not ask staff to sign a written agreement the Guidelines do apply to them, staff should also be familiar with the DET Acceptable Use Policy which can be found at [DET Acceptable Use Policies](#)
- 2.5 Students and staff can expect sanctions if they act irresponsibly and disregard their obligations to other users and the school as the provider of their Internet access.
- 2.6 Students and staff must not use their loaned mobile device or the school network in breach of a law or to commit an offence.

3. PROGRAM

- 3.1.1 The use of the school's network is subject to the Acceptable Use Procedures Briefly this means that the school's network can be used only by staff, students and associated individuals (e.g. visiting teachers) and only for, or in connection with the educational or administrative functions of the school.
- 3.1.2 The Acceptable Use Procedures (AUP) is intended to operate within and be consistent with existing school policies and procedures in areas such as:
 - **Anti-bullying (including cyber-bullying) and Anti-harassment**
 - **eSmart Programme**
- 3.2.1 Responsibility and accountability for network security is the shared responsibility of all network users. It is the responsibility of staff and students to protect his/her password and not divulge it to another person. If a student or staff member knows or suspects his/her account has been used by another person, the account holder must notify a teacher immediately.
- 3.2.2 All messages created, sent or retrieved on the school's network are the property of the school, and should be considered public information. The school reserves the right to access and monitor all messages and files on the computer system as deemed necessary and appropriate. Internet messages are public communication and are not private. All communications including text and images can be disclosed to law enforcement and other third parties without prior consent from the sender.
- 3.3 Independent student use of the internet on the school's network will only be permitted where students and their parents/carers provide written acknowledgement that students agree to act in accordance with the standards of conduct established in this policy document and as set-out in the Acceptable Use Procedures (AUP).

3.4.1 For breaches of the Acceptable Use Procedures students and staff can face a number of consequences depending on the severity of the breach and the context of the situation. More than one consequence may apply for a given offence. Serious or repeated offences will result in stronger penalties:

For Students;

- removal of network access privileges
- removal of email privileges
- removal of internet access privileges
- removal of printing privileges
- paying to replace damaged equipment
- other consequences as outlined in the school's discipline policy

For Staff;

- Non-compliance will be regarded as a serious matter and appropriate action, including termination of employment may be taken

3.4.2 Bullying and harassment of any kind is prohibited. No messages with derogatory or inflammatory remarks about an individual or group's race, religion, national origin, physical attributes, or sexual preference will be transmitted. Violations of any guidelines listed above may result in disciplinary action.

3.5 While the Internet may be largely a self-regulated environment, the general principles of law and community standards still apply to communication and publishing via the Internet. In addition to school penalties, there are legal sanctions for improper use of the Internet.

4. EVALUATION

This policy will be reviewed annually or more often if necessary due to changes in regulations or circumstances.

Appendix A : GUIDELINES AND CONDITIONS ACCEPTABLE USE PROCEDURES FOR THE SCHOOL'S INTERNET AND MOBILE DEVICES

Part A – Agreement to be signed by the student and parent

OUR SCHOOL ICT ACCEPTABLE USE AGREEMENT

Our school believes the teaching of cyber safety and responsible online behaviour is essential in the lives of students and is best taught in partnership between home and school. To be safe online and to gain the greatest benefit from the opportunities provided through an online environment, students need to do the right thing by themselves and others online, particularly when no one is watching. Safe and responsible behaviour is explicitly taught at our school and parents/carers are requested to reinforce this behaviour at home. Some online activities are illegal and as such will be reported to police.

Part A - School support for the safe and responsible use of digital technologies

Our school uses the Ultranet, internet and digital technologies as teaching and learning tools. We see the internet and digital technologies as valuable resources, but acknowledge they must be used responsibly. Your child has been asked to agree to use the Ultranet, internet and mobile technologies responsibly at school. Parents/carers should be aware that the nature of the internet is such that full protection from inappropriate content can never be guaranteed.

At our school we:

- have policies in place that outline the values of the school and expected behaviours when students use digital technology and the internet
- provide a filtered internet service
- provide supervision and direction in online activities and when using digital technologies for learning
- support students in developing digital literacy skills
- have a cyber safety program at the school which is reinforced across the school
- use mobile technologies for educational purposes (e.g. podcasts or photos from excursions)
- provide support to parents/carers to understand this agreement (e.g. language support)
- provide support to parents/carers through information evenings and through the document attached to this agreement for parent to keep at home

Part B - Student Agreement

When I use digital technologies I agree to be a safe, responsible and ethical user at all times, by:

- Respecting others and communicating with them in a supportive manner; never writing or participating in online bullying (for example, forwarding messages and supporting others in harmful, inappropriate or hurtful online behaviours).
- Protecting my privacy; not giving out personal details, including my full name, telephone number, address, passwords and images.
- Protecting the privacy of others; never posting or forwarding their personal details or images without their consent.
- Not revealing my password to anyone except the system administrator or the teacher.
- Talking to a teacher if I personally feel uncomfortable or unsafe online, or if I see others participating in unsafe, inappropriate or hurtful online behaviours.
- Handling ICT devices with care and notifying a teacher if it is damaged or requires attention.
- Abiding by copyright regulations when using content on websites (ask permission to use images, text, audio and video and cite references where necessary).
- Not interfering with network systems and security, the data of another user or attempting to log into the network with a user name or password of another student.
- Not bringing to school or downloading unauthorised programs, including games.

ICT ACCEPTABLE USE AGREEMENT

I acknowledge and agree to follow these rules. I understand that my access to the Internet and mobile technology at school will be renegotiated if I do not act responsibly.

I have read the Acceptable ICT Use Agreement carefully and understand the significance of the conditions and agree to abide by these conditions. I understand that any breach of these conditions will result in internet and mobile technology access privileges being suspended or revoked.

Student Surname _____ **First Name** _____

Home Group _____ **Student Signature** _____

Parent/Carer Name _____

Parent/Carer Signature _____ **Date** _____

For further support with online issues students can call Kids Helpline on 1800 55 1800.
Parents/carers can call Parentline 132289 or visit <http://www.cybersmart.gov.au/report.aspx>