

Rationale

This policy is to ensure that students, parents and staff are aware of the risks attached to overuse and unsafe use of the internet in a world where technology is rapidly changing. It is also to ensure that students are able to make educated choices regarding these risks.

Definition

'Cyberbullying' comes in many forms, but the most common are:

- receiving mean or hurtful text messages from someone you know or even someone you don't know
- receiving nasty, threatening or hurtful messages through social networking sites such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and Snapchat
- people sending photographs and videos of you to others without your permission to try and embarrass or hurt you
- people spreading rumours or lies about you via emails or social networking sites or text messages
- people trying to stop you from communicating with others or excluding you from chat groups
- people stealing your passwords or logging into your accounts and changing the information there
- people setting up fake profiles, pretending to be you, or posting messages or status updates from your accounts.

Details

With the rapid development of technology, students are exposed to a wide range of connected electronic devices such as laptops, tablets and smartphones. Through these, they have instant access to the internet. These devices are recognised as beneficial educational tools. However, some students are spending large amounts of time using electronic devices, and in some cases, this leads to reduced time dedicated to sleep, study, class work, family communication and outdoor activity. It can impact students' relationships as trust issues develop if students lie to parents about the nature and quantity of their usage.

In addition, there are a number of safety issues on the internet which pose threats to students' emotional lives and thus their academic lives. Some students are involved in cyberbullying either as perpetrators or as victims. Some students are unaware of safety issues surrounding their digital footprint and are thus at risk of a range of possible problems such as identity theft and sexual predators.

Our aims are:

- To implement and maintain a whole-school approach to address the problem of cyber safety
- To make students aware of the safety issues regarding the internet, gaming and social networking
- To inform students about the negative consequences that can result from the misuse of the internet
- To empower students to take ownership of, and responsibility for, their usage and habits
- To educate teachers about their role in ensuring that students are using the internet responsibly and safely

- To support parents in their efforts to ensure that their children are using the internet responsibly and safely
- To identify those at risk and provide them with specific support from the Student Wellbeing Team.

Outcomes:

- Staff, students and parents to adhere to the school's 'Acceptable Communication (online)' Policy
- Provide students with relevant skills and strategies to use computers effectively and with a high level of digital literacy
- Equip students with relevant skills and strategies to manage computer overuse and/or addiction
- Educate students about cyberbullying and other unacceptable behaviours
- Educating students about risks concerning internet usage and online privacy (release of personal details, photographs, sexual predators etc)
- Provide students with effective strategies to protect their digital identity
- Promote responsible/appropriate digital etiquette
- Staff to be proactive in enforcing appropriate computer use in the classroom
- Staff to recognise that all incidents of bullying are unacceptable and to be proactive in addressing these issues
- Use surveys and other feedback tools to respond to issues in a timely manner.

Responsibilities

Staff:

To ensure ongoing communication between staff, parents, students and relevant welfare agencies is open and productive

To produce and keep updated material to distribute to parents

To determine what strategies can assist teachers to best prevent cyberbullying and to use Professional Development Days and staff meetings to disseminate this information

To develop and regularly update an educational program

To ensure that parents and students with concerns are referred to counselling.

Students:

All students will be made aware of our rules and expectations regarding computer usage and cyber safety

All students will develop an understanding that there are rights/responsibilities which accompany the correct use of the internet and consequences which accompany the misuse of the internet

All students will participate in programs to raise awareness about the responsible use of ICT

All students and their parents/carers will verify their understanding and abide by the 'Excellent Digital Citizenship Contract'.

Related Documents

Cyber Safety Policy

Secondary Discipline Policy

Excellent Digital Citizenship

Excellent Digital Citizenship Contract

BYOD Policy

Acceptable communication (online) Policy (Students)