



INTERNET USE & SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

Rationale

- Preston West Primary School uses the internet as a learning tool to improve student's learning outcomes by increasing access to worldwide information. The school embraces the benefits of technology and is committed to reducing student exposure to cyber-risks when using the internet, tablets and other electronic devices.
- There are legal consequences for misuse of social media.
- Teachers and other staff in schools have a responsibility to take reasonable steps to protect children from risks of injury, including those that may be encountered within the online learning environment.

Aims

- To use digital technologies to provide open ended, authentic and relevant tasks to stimulate and engage our students, and cater to their individual learning needs.
- To develop the safe, smart and responsible use of technology throughout our school community.
- To provide teachers with support to develop and enhance their understanding of digital technologies.
- To ensure Preston West Primary School complies with DET policy and legislation in regard to social media.
- To help redress cyberbullying.
- To ensure the school has in place strategies to enhance compliance with the Child Safe Standards 2 and 6.

Definitions

In the context of the Department of Education and Trainings (DEECD's) *Using Social Media Guide*, social media is the term used for internet based tools for sharing and discussing information among people. Additional social media tools may include (although are not limited to):

- Social networking sites (e.g. Facebook, LinkedIn, Myspace, etc.)
- Video and photo sharing web sites (e.g. Flickr, YouTube, Vimeo)
- Blogs, including corporate blogs and personal blogs
- Micro-blogs (e.g. Twitter)

- Forums, discussion boards and groups (e.g. Google groups, Whirlpool)
- Wikis (e.g. Wikipedia)
- VoD (video on demand) and podcasts
- Video conferences and web conferences
- e-mail and instant messaging

Social media also includes all other emerging electronic/digital communication applications.

Bullying is when someone, or a group of people, deliberately upsets or hurts another person or damages their property, reputation or social acceptance on more than one occasion. There is an imbalance of power in incidents of bullying with the bully or bullies having more power at the time due to age, size, status or other reasons.

Cyberbullying is direct verbal or indirect bullying behaviours using digital technologies. This includes harassment via a mobile phone, setting up a defamatory personal website or deliberately excluding someone from social networking spaces.

Implementation

- This school **has zero tolerance of bullying** in any form.
- The wellbeing of every child at the school is our highest priority.
- This policy applies to all staff, teaching and non-teaching at Preston West Primary School. It includes all volunteers, visitors and contractors engaged by the school and the School Council.
- The school will maintain an eSmart status, the initiative of the Alannah and Madeline Foundation.
- Preston West Primary School uses *Using Social Media: Guide for DEECD Employees in Schools* as the reference for internet use at the school.
- In consultation with staff, parents/carers and children, the school will determine what is appropriate and what is not appropriate use of social media.
- The school will assist parents/carers to support their children in the digital world by providing them with useful information about existing and emerging technologies, engaging them in the development and review of policies and inviting them to information sessions or distributing handouts on school expectations of acceptable use.
- Parents/carers, teachers, children and the community will be made aware of types of cyber bullying and its legal and hurtful ramifications. Teachers will be regularly reminded of their duty of care regarding protection of children from all forms of bullying.
- The school will use DEECD's Step by Step Guide: Online Incidents of Inappropriate Behaviour Affecting Students in dealing with inappropriate incidents.
- The school will maintain an Acceptable Use Agreement for children.

- The school will seek children's and parent/carer permission when publishing children's images and/or their work.

This policy was last ratified by School Council: November 9th 2020