Cyber Safety Information
For Parents

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‘Don’t be mean behind the screen’
Please read the following terms and policies regarding the below online sites/apps:

ALL ARE FOR CHILDREN 13 AND OLDER

Facebook

Please visit this site for a full understanding of Facebook’s Privacy Policy and HOW AND WHO THEY SHARE THE INFORMATION WITH:
http://www.facebook.com/policy.php

No information from children under 13. If you are under age 13, please do not attempt to register for Facebook or provide any personal information about yourself to us. If we learn that we have collected personal information from a child under age 13, we will delete that information as quickly as possible. If you believe that we might have any information from a child under age 13, please contact us through this help page.

http://instagram.com/about/legal/terms/#

Basic Terms

1. You must be at least 13 years old to use the Service.
2. You may not post violent, nude, partially nude, discriminatory, unlawful, infringing, hateful, pornographic or sexually suggestive photos or other content via the Service.

Skype

13. CHILDREN

Skype’s websites and software clients are not intended for or designed to attract users under the age of 13. We encourage parents to be involved in the online activities of their children to ensure that no information is collected from a child without parental permission.

YouTube

What age does my child need to be to use YouTube?

In order to create a YouTube account, you must confirm that you’re at least 13 years old. If a video gets flagged and we find that the uploader inaccurately stated their age during the account creation process, we will terminate their account.

Please understand that there are no filters on YouTube at all so your child could be looking at a music video, then the next thing, down the side of the page is something to do with sexual content which is not age appropriate at all. At no time should your child be left unattended watching ‘you tube’.

If your child is using Skype it should be under parental supervision at all times and in an open space in the house.
PC’s, IPads, IPhones, IPods SHOULD be in a common area of the house NOT IN THE BEDROOM.

PARENTAL MONITORING IS VITAL – walk past and see what your child is doing!

Have a family internet contract and set house rules about what information your child can put onto websites or share with others. Let them know if you are paying for the phone contract at any time you can ask to see photos that have been posted online.

SPEND TIME ONLINE WITH YOUR CHILD

- Parents must learn about the internet with their child – get children to share their knowledge of the internet with their parents in a fun environment
- Spend time online with children, just as you would with many other activities such as sport, board games and walking the dog - learn and explore together.
- Be aware the majority of children WILL NOT tell a parent/teacher if bullied or harassed online for fear that they will lose internet access!! Make sure that your children understand that they will not get in trouble if they tell you about a problem. Teach children that information on the internet is not always reliable. Very close supervision for young children is recommended.
- There should be a limit to the email correspondence/msn to be a list of friends and family that has been approved. Set up an MSN or Moshi Monsters account....whatever your children use and engage with them online. This also allows you to know how these applications work.
- If your child is playing online games it is YOUR responsibility to make sure that YOU know how to play the game too in case of problems. Play online games together.
- Do not let young children ‘google’ aimlessly with no supervision. You Tube has inappropriate content too....Children need to be taught about search engines and how they work. If they come across something they are not sure of, to speak to a trusted adult about it 😊
UNWANTED CONTACT

- Make sure there is no response to rude or harassing emails (keep a record in case of further investigation).
- Advise your student/child to immediately exit any site that makes them feel uncomfortable or worried. Basic protective behaviour principles apply.
- If harassment continues....the current email account can be deleted and a new one started. The new email address should only be given to a selected few.
- If receiving harassing messages on MSN/SKYPE - have the sender blocked.
- If you have found inappropriate content about your child or one in your care on a website or are informed about this situation please contact the ISP and or Police a.s.a.p.

INTERNET FILTERS

- Know the sites they are accessing to ensure suitability. Filters CAN sometimes fail to protect and can be bypassed by a ‘tech savvy’ child.
- Learn the lingo so that you can decipher some of the content if required.

SOCIAL NETWORKING

- ABSOLUTELY NO EXCHANGE OF PERSONAL INFORMATION!
- Social Networking Profiles SHOULD BE SET TO PRIVATE. Please check!
- MSN/Skype contacts and social networking site friends should be people that your child knows in real life. Check apps such as Instagram /Twitter to see who they are following. These should be set to private.
- Please be aware of Snapchat—many teenagers are using it to send photos and the app tells you the ‘pics disappear’ in 10 seconds...but they can be retrieved or screen shot.
Online Gaming

As in all schools, online gaming can tend to cause some issues for students, especially when they are playing them at home and then bringing the issues into the school environment.

Many of these game are designed for children 13 years and older. To register a child younger than 13 there must be parent consent or the child has entered an incorrect birthdate. One example of a popular online game is Clash of the Clans. Similar to Mine craft, where they join ‘clans’ bringing with it clan chat and messages. If the clan is set to ‘anyone’ then this means that complete strangers can join the clan and start chatting. The only person who can change this setting is the leader of that particular clan through the settings feature.

Some of the issues that we are hearing about are:

- If your child gets into a clan there is no way to stop what’s being said in that forum. There has been swearing over the chat lines. Not always by our students but by complete strangers. Being a 13yo or older game, this seems to be quite frequent.
- Students are making their ‘chief name’ their real full name which is then available online to these strangers.
- Students are writing inappropriate messages to each other which are hurtful and causing upset amongst the students.
- Students are clicking on links that are in fact viruses, causing harm to the computer or device.
- The parents who have their credit card saved on iTunes and have told their child the passwords have enabled their child to buy and purchase items in the game to make their ‘clans’ stronger.
All of the above issues are inappropriate behaviour and should certainly not be happening. Banning the game is obviously one option. Educating your child to develop an understanding of online conduct is another option. The net is a powerful tool that is here to stay and one our kids will be required to use. Like any powerful tool, it is dangerous in untrained hands, therefore, we need to teach them to respect it and how to use it responsibly.

First and foremost, it is imperative your child fully understands to not disclose personal information. A student who tells someone their name and even what school they go to, could cause them great danger.

*Can you please chat with your child and maybe sit down with them and discuss what it means to be a responsible digital citizen and exactly what sort of information is considered ‘personal’.*

If your child is partaking in online gaming, please look at who their friends are and who they are chatting to. Make sure they know the people who they are in contact with. We would suggest that you sit with them and watch them playing the game occasionally, so that you are fully aware of how they are interacting on the internet.

We are aware that NOT all students are involved in online gaming, however, we feel that all parents would benefit from being educated about potential issues when online gaming.

For more information please go to: [http://www.cybersmart.gov.au/](http://www.cybersmart.gov.au/)