

WESTMEADOWS PRIMARY SCHOOL

POLICY TITLE: eSMART

POLICY NUMBER: 5 (xii-c)

DATE LAST REVISED: June 2013

DEFINITION

eSmart is a system to assist schools to change the culture and behaviours in relation to the use of digital technologies. It is a whole school approach, it embraces technology's benefits and reduces students' and teachers' exposure to risk.

RATIONALE

Westmeadows Primary School recognises the importance of Information Communication Technology in preparing students for the world around them and believes ICT is an integral part of the curriculum. We want our students to be confident and safe using this technology. Our school will be an eSmart school and promote cybersafety in the community. We believe that explicitly teaching students about safe and responsible online behaviours is essential, and is best taught in partnership with parents/guardians. We request that parents/guardians work with us and encourage this behaviour at home.

IMPLEMENTATION

All students will undertake a Cybersafe program and will be required with their parents to sign an Acceptable Use Agreement before they will be allowed on-line. The school community will be provided with Cybersafety information on a regular basis. Incidents of Cyberbullying will not be tolerated at Westmeadows Primary School and victims and their carers will be encouraged to report incidents to law enforcement bodies.

Cyberbullying is when a **child** is tormented, threatened, harassed, humiliated, embarrassed or targeted by another child using the internet, mobile phone, instant messaging, e-mail, chat rooms or social networking site such as Facebook and Twitter or other type of digital technology. Cyberbullying is usually not a one off communication, unless it involves a death threat or a credible threat of serious bodily harm.

Safe and responsible behaviour is explicitly taught at our school and parents/carers are requested to reinforce this behaviour at home. Students are advised to report an incident if:

- they feel that the welfare of other students at the school is being threatened
- they have experienced an incident of Cyberbullying
- they come across sites which are not suitable for their school
- someone writes something they don't like, or makes them and their friends feel uncomfortable or asks them to provide information that they know is private
- they accidentally do something which is against the rules and responsibilities they have agreed to.

All incidents of Cyberbullying must be referred to the ICT Coordinator and Principal. Incidents will be investigated and recorded in a register maintained at school. The school Welfare and Discipline Policy will determine action taken for breaches of this agreement. Any student who does not follow the rules of the Acceptable Use Agreement will lose their computer privileges for a length of time as decided appropriate by the relevant staff members (Teacher/Principal/Assistant Principal/ICT Coordinator).

Parents will be notified and expected to meet with school staff if students are involved in any incidents of bullying/cyberbullying.

EVALUATION

The eSmart Policy is to be reviewed according to the school's review cycle.