

eSmart Policy

1. RATIONALE

Templestowe Park Primary School is an eSmart school and promotes cyber-safety in the school and extended community. We recognise the need for students to be smart, safe and responsible users of digital technology, at all times. We recognise the importance of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in preparing students for the future and believe ICT is an imperative part of the curriculum. The school embraces the benefits of technology and is committed to reducing students' exposure to cyber-risks (such as cyberbullying, identity theft and fraud) when using the internet, mobile phones and other mobile devices. We believe that explicitly teaching students about safe and responsible online behaviours is essential, and is most effective in partnership with parents/guardians. TPPS will support students and families with developing these behaviours.

2. GOALS

- 2.1 To develop awareness, knowledge and skills in students in regards to safe and responsible use of digital technologies, including websites, social media, blogs, chat tools and games.
- 2.2 To support the parent community in understanding the opportunities and also risks of using technology and the internet.
- 2.3 To equip the parent community with resources and knowledge to support the students, and by so doing, remain positive about the benefits of technology even though there are risks.

3. IMPLEMENTATION

- 3.1 TPPS is an accredited eSmart school. Staff training in the philosophies of the eSmart program is ongoing.
- 3.2 All students will undertake a Cybersafety program at the beginning of each year. All students in years 3, 4, 5 and 6 will be required to sign an Acceptable Use Agreement before they will be permitted to use any information and communication technologies (ICT) at school.
- 3.3 All students (and their parents) in years 3, 4, 5 and 6 will sign the iPad Student Code of Conduct before they can bring their own devices to school.
- 3.4 The school community will be provided with Cybersafety information on an annual basis.
- 3.5 Safe and responsible online behaviour is explicitly taught and parents/carers are requested to reinforce this behaviour at home. Parents/guardians can use Cybersafety as a resource by visiting www.cybersmart.gov.au
- 3.6 DET provides for government schools a filtered internet service. Templestowe Park PS also utilises a 'local filter' to restrict student access to websites that are 'hobby or fad based' and not relevant to student learning.
- 3.7 Staff will supervise students when using digital technologies for educational purposes whilst acknowledging that full protection from inappropriate content can never be guaranteed.
- 3.8 Staff will respond to issues or incidents that have the potential to impact on the wellbeing of our students.
- 3.9 All incidents of cyberbullying must be referred to the Principal, Classroom Teacher and eSmart Coordinator for investigation and any action taken will be in line with the Student Engagement Policy.
- 3.10 Parents/guardians will be notified and will be expected to meet with school staff if students are involved in any incidents of cyberbullying.

3.11 Students are advised to report an incident to their teacher immediately if:

- They have experienced an incident of cyberbullying
- They feel the welfare of other students at the school is being threatened
- They come across sites which are not suitable for our school
- Someone writes something they don't like, makes them or their friends feel uncomfortable or asks them to provide private information
- They accidentally do something which is against the rules and responsibilities they have agreed to by signing the Acceptable Use Agreement

3.12 The Acceptable Use Agreement also applies during school excursions, camps and extra-curricular activities.

5. EVALUATION

This policy will be reviewed by staff and the Education Sub Committee as part of the school's policy review process.

Ratified by School Council: November 2019