



Hewett Primary School

Cyber Safety Policy

RATIONALE

The core business of our school is to promote and support teaching and learning in a safe environment, free from unnecessary distraction and disruption.

The school strives to maintain a safe physical and emotional environment for staff and students. The Internet and ICT devices/equipment bring great benefits to the teaching and learning programs, and to the effective operation of our school.

The measures to ensure the cyber safety of Hewett Primary School are based on our core values of Respect, Learning and Responsibility.

At times the presence of ICT in the learning environment can also facilitate anti-social, inappropriate, and even illegal behaviour and activities, whether occurring in or out of school.

Students need to learn how to use ICT, including mobile technologies, in responsible and ethical ways. In addition, they need to feel confident about alerting the adults in their lives when they are feeling unsafe, threatened, bullied or exposed to inappropriate events. In response, these adults need to take appropriate actions to protect the child or young person (DE Cyber-Safety Guidelines).

Hewett Primary School takes seriously its responsibility in providing robust policy, guidelines and education for students in relation to what is deemed acceptable and appropriate online behaviours. Neither the school's network nor the broader internet (whether accessed on campus or off campus, either during or after school hours, via any application) may be used for any purpose other than that which it was designed.

“Cyberbullying is a way of delivering covert psychological bullying. It uses information and communication technologies to support deliberate, repeated and hostile behavior, by an individual or group that is intended to harm others.” (Belsey 2007)

Cyberbullying includes but is not restricted to:

- Repeated harassing, teasing, intimidating, threatening, another person by sending or posting inappropriate and hurtful email messages, instant messages, text messages, phone messages, digital pictures or images, or website postings (including blogs).
- Intentionally excluding others from an online group and 'liking' or 'sharing' a bullying comment will all be considered as cyberbullying.

The following will constitute a breach of school policy and as such a student will be subject to disciplinary action:

- Taking, sending and receiving naked or sexually explicit images (sexting) and other misuses of technology in cyberspace.
- Logging on and pretending to be someone else as well as sending sexually explicit images ('sexting').
- The forwarding of private emails, messages, pictures or videos or otherwise inappropriately communicating personal or private information belonging to another person.

If this occurs either during school time, on school premises, will constitute a breach of school policy and as such a student will be subject to disciplinary action. One isolated nasty, disrespectful or hurtful comment or post will be a clear breach of school rules and will be dealt with, however it will not be categorised as cyberbullying.

INAPPROPRIATE USE OF THE INTERNET INCLUDES:

- The school name, motto, crest, logo and/or uniform must not be used in any way which would result in a negative impact for the school and its community.

- Students must not post photos of either themselves and/or other students which clearly identify them as a member of the Hewett Primary School community, nor post photos taken during any school sanctioned activity. This includes off campus events such as sports days and camps.
- Students and/or parents must not take photographs or otherwise record members of the school community (other than themselves or their own child) whether intentionally or inadvertently and/or post to the internet, publish or share without the written permission of the person photographed.
- Students will not post inappropriate comments about individual staff members, which if said in person would result in disciplinary action being taken.
- No member of the school community will establish or maintain a social networking site which uses the school name, crest, logo or any other name by which the school and its community may be known without the express permission of the Principal or his/her delegate. This includes class based Facebook pages.
- Members of the school community also have a responsibility to ensure that all online communications are in keeping with the schools expectations in relation to appropriate and respectful interactions with teaching and non-teaching staff.

Any form of online abuse will not be tolerated and will result in some or all of the following:

- Suspension from internet use at school
- Suspension from school
- Involvement of the Police
- Legal advice will be sought to protect the school or person so named

To support the safe use of the internet the school will:

- Provide relevant education about Cybersafety for the students and school community
- Annually deliver curriculum around Cybersafety, incorporated into the Digital Technologies curriculum
- Provide professional development for staff
- Enact disciplinary responses appropriate to breaches of Cybersafety
- Regularly monitor student and staff access to the internet

Students must be aware that in certain circumstances where a crime has been committed, they may also be subjected to a criminal investigation by Police over which the school will have no control.

Victims should:

- Save and store the offending material on their computer, mobile phone or other device.
- Print a copy of the material and immediately report the incident to a teacher, leadership or the Police.
- Seek support from an adult only.
- Not engage in any further communications with the perpetrator.
- Staff who may have been cyberbullied or threatened online should immediately report such incidences to a member of the School Leadership Team.
- Cyber bullying which affects students, staff or volunteers within the school will always be responded to by the school.

