Taradale Primary School

eSmart and Cyber Policy

Taradale Primary School is a community of students, staff, friends and family working together to create a diverse, engaging and respectful learning environment.

Rationale

Taradale Primary School recognises the importance of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) in preparing students for the future and values ICT as an integral part of the curriculum. We want our students to be confident and safe using this technology. We believe that explicitly teaching students about safe and responsible online behaviours is essential, and is best taught with a strong partnership between home and school.

Aims
- To establish an eSmart culture which is in keeping with the values of the school
- To educate students to be smart, safe, responsible and ethical users of digital technologies
- To recognise that explicitly teaching students about safe and responsible online behaviour is essential in the lives of students and is best taught in partnership between home and school
- To achieve accreditation as an eSmart school by meeting the criteria outlined in the eSmart system tools

Implementation
- The school will have a filtered internet service as provided by the Department of Education and Training. However, the school acknowledges that full protection from inappropriate content can never be guaranteed.
- The school will have policies in place that reflect the values of the school and expected behaviours when students use digital technologies including the internet.
- Teachers will provide supervision and direction for online activities and when using digital technologies for learning

- Teachers will implement a Prep – Year 6 cyber-safety programme at the beginning of each school year and reference this programme throughout the year.
- The school will provide support to parents/carers through information evenings and regular cyber-safety tips in the school's newsletter and Facebook page.
- Students and their parents will sign the school's Acceptable Use Agreement for Internet and Digital Technologies agreement. A summary of the agreement will be displayed at locations around the school where students access desktop computers, laptops and iPads. Parents/carers are requested to reinforce acceptable use for the internet and digital technologies in the home.
- Students are not to use mobile phones or other personal electronic devices within classrooms or school grounds during school hours. This is a means for prohibiting the recording and/or uploading of images, video and audio of students and/or staff to the internet including social media.
- Students will not be able to use mobile phones and other personal electronic devices during excursions, camps and extra-curricular activities without the explicit permission of the principal
- Students and/or parents/carers are advised to report an incident of cyberbullying to the school as soon as is practical to do so. Reportable incidents include when:
  - The welfare of students at the school is being threatened.
  - Websites accessed at school are deemed not suitable for our school.
  - Someone writes something online that makes the student, or their friends, feel uncomfortable and/or if they are asked to provide private information. Students will be educated to employ an 'ignore, block and report' approach to such incidents.
  - Dissemination of inappropriate and/or slanderous information through digital media or any other means such as email and text messages.
  - Students accidentally do something which is against Acceptable Use Agreement for Internet and Digital Technologies agreement.
- The school will respond to issues or incidents (including online issues and incidents) that have the potential to impact on the wellbeing of students and staff. Actions to be taken by the school will be in line with its Student Engagement and Inclusion policy and the Department's four-step guide for Dealing with online incidents of inappropriate behaviour affecting students:

http://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/about/programs/bullystoppers/stepbystepconcernstudent.pdf

Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's four-year strategic plan.