



Our Lady of Lourdes - Bayswater

eSmart Policy

RATIONALE

Children are the greatest beneficiaries of the digital era and are learning to navigate the online world at a younger and younger age. We need to ensure our communities are equipped to teach children, and the whole community, how to benefit from online technology whilst being savvy and prepared for the pitfalls - cyberbullying, scams, fraud, exposure to predators and inappropriate content.

(eSmart Schools <https://www.esmart.org.au/esmart-schools/what-is-esmart-schools/>)

At Our Lady of Lourdes we believe that students, staff and parents deserve to be treated respectfully and that every person needs to feel secure in an environment that supports positive self-esteem, personal growth and sound academic learning.

We believe that a sense of wellbeing is central to students' ability to learn and that a supportive and nurturing environment contributes to the development of their sense of worth, enthusiasm for learning and optimism for the future.

Our Lady's understands that digital technologies including the internet, apps, computers and tablets provide students with rich opportunities to support learning and development in a range of ways. Through increased access to digital technologies, students can benefit from enhanced learning that is interactive, collaborative, personalised and engaging. Digital technologies enable our students to interact with and create high-quality content, resources and tools. It also enables personalised learning tailored to students' particular needs and interests and transforms assessment, reporting and feedback, driving new forms of collaboration and communication.

Our Lady of Lourdes is an eSmart school which promotes cyber safety. We endeavour to provide an eSmart culture within the educative environment that is in keeping with the values of the School, legislative and professional obligations, and the community expectations. We endeavour to equip our students with opportunities to develop the skills necessary to be responsible, ethical, confident and safe users of technology.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that all students and members of the Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School community understand

- our responsibility to maintain a safe learning environment.
- our commitment to providing students with the opportunity to benefit from digital technologies to support and enhance learning and development at school.

Serve the Lord with joy.

- the expected student behaviour when using digital technologies including the internet, social media, and digital devices.
- the school's commitment to promoting safe, ethical, responsible and discerning use of digital technologies, and educating students on appropriate responses to any dangers or threats to wellbeing that they may encounter when using the internet and digital technologies.
- our school's policies and procedures for responding to inappropriate student behaviour on digital technologies and online spaces.

IMPLEMENTATION

- Educate our students about digital issues such as online privacy, intellectual property and copyright, and the importance of maintaining their own privacy online.
- Support the rights of all members of the school community to engage in and promote a safe, inclusive and supportive learning environment.
- Use online sites and digital tools that support students' learning, and focus our use of digital technologies on being learning-centred.
- Restrict the use of digital technologies in the classroom to specific uses with targeted educational or developmental aims.
- Ensure our Positive Management of Behaviour Policy clearly states the school's values and the expected standards of student behaviour, including actions and consequences for inappropriate behaviour.
- Ensure the Acceptable Use Agreement outlining the expectations of students when using digital technology at school is known by all.
- Effectively and responsively address any issues or incidents that have the potential to impact on the wellbeing of our students.
- Educate our students to be safe and responsible users of digital technologies.
- Use clear protocols and procedures to protect students working in online spaces, which includes reviewing the safety and appropriateness of online tools and communities, removing offensive content at the earliest opportunity.
- Actively supervise students when using digital technologies for educational purposes.
- Provide a filtered internet service but acknowledge that full protection from inappropriate content can never be guaranteed.
- Support parents and carers to understand the safe and responsible use of digital technologies and the strategies that can be implemented at home through regular updates in our newsletter and annual information sheets.

- Respond to and record issues or incidents that have the potential to impact on the wellbeing of our students.
- Know that some online activities are illegal and as such we are required to report this to the police.
- Support parents/guardians to understand the importance of safe and responsible use of digital technologies, the potential issues that surround their use and strategies that they can implement at home to support their child.
- Provide parents/guardians with a copy of the Digital Technologies and Internet User Agreement. A signed copy of this agreement is to be returned annually.

EVALUATION

This policy may be updated or revised from time to time or according to the school's cyclic review process.

History of Updates to Policy

| Date | Review: Major, Minor, etc |
|-------------|----------------------------------|
| 2015 | Written and ratified |
| 2019 | Minor update - amendment |
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