

BELMONT PRIMARY SCHOOL

CYBER SAFETY POLICY



RATIONALE

Belmont Primary School embraces the presence and use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) as an integral part of the learning environment. However, the use of ICT must be complemented by clearly articulated roles, responsibilities and expectations of those who use the technology. The Cyber Safety policy seeks to ensure the safe and responsible use of ICT within the Belmont school community.

Definitions:

Cybersafety - the way in which users behave responsibly online to keep themselves and their friends safe. It incorporates the safe and desirable use of the internet and ICT equipment and devices, an awareness of our digital footprint, and how to behave appropriately and respectfully.

Cyberbullying – direct verbal or indirect bullying behaviours using digital technologies. eg. Inappropriate comments on social media spaces.

(Source: <https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/bullystoppers/Pages/cyberbullyingcampaign.aspx>)

AIMS:

- To promote the appropriate use of ICT by all members of the school community that ensures the safety and well-being of all students, staff and parents, emphasising a zero tolerance to cyberbullying.
- To ensure students, staff and parents are aware of their roles and shared responsibilities in relation to cyber safety and appropriate online behaviours.
- To develop the skills, knowledge, attitudes and behaviours required of students, staff and parents to participate and function responsibly, safely and appropriately in cyberspace.

IMPLEMENTATION

Belmont Primary School promotes partnership between all members of the school community in adhering to this policy. Our approach to cybersafety aligns with our school values and is supported by our eSmart accreditation, *ICT Acceptable Use Agreement*, *Digital Media Policy*, the *Student Engagement and Well-Being Policy*, and the Department of Education and Training's *Privacy Policy*.

Prevention

- The school is responsible for sourcing and implementing relevant and developmentally appropriate programs and strategies that promote positive online behaviours and cybersafe practices. A range of classroom-based, interactive, online student learning, staff professional learning, and parent education opportunities will be utilised such as eSmart initiatives, Cybersafety experts, promoting cybersafe websites, support materials and publishing relevant information via school newsletter and Skoolbag App.
- All staff, students and parents are responsible for acting in accordance with the school's annual ICT User Agreements, and to work in partnership to ensure the safe and productive use of ICT.
- The school has the authority to monitor, access and review all school-based ICT usage by students, staff and parents. This includes emails sent and received on the school's computers and/or network facilities.

Intervention

- Students, staff or parents can report any breaches of the ICT User Agreements or incidents of cyberbullying activity to a staff member or Principal at any time.

- Any alleged incidences or allegations of behaviour that are in breach of Belmont’s ICT User will be thoroughly investigated by the school.
- Significant breaches made by, or involving, students will result in the school notifying the parents of those students.
- Where a breach is deemed to be extremely serious, DET’s Conduct and Ethics branch may be contacted.
- The school’s response to alleged breaches will be followed up with due diligence and consideration for all parties involved or affected by any breach.
- The progress and well-being of any student involved in breaches will be monitored and evaluated in line with our Student Engagement & Well-Being Policy.
- Where cyberbullying has been identified, counselling and support may be offered, as determined by the school.
- Consequences of inappropriate use will follow the steps outlined in the Student Engagement and Welfare Policy.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES:

- School Policy and Advisory Guide: *Bullying*
<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/safety/pages/bullying.aspx>
- School Policy and Advisory Guide: *Cybersafety and Cyberbullying*
<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/bullystoppers/Pages/advicecybersafe.aspx>
<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/bullystoppers/Pages/advicecyberbully.aspx>
- Digital Media Policy
- Student Engagement and Wellbeing Policy
- Acceptable Use Policy
- ICT Offences and Consequences

Useful websites:

- eSmart: <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/bullystoppers/Pages/esmart.aspx>
- Acma: <http://www.cybersmart.gov.au/parents.aspx>

EVALUATION

Due to the rapid evolution of ICT, regular evaluation and updating of this policy will occur when required in line with the school’s 3 year review process.

This policy was last ratified by School Council in.....

September 2016

Review Date: 2019