

Cyber Bullying

Dear Parents & Carers,

People of all ages all over the world have fully embraced the conveniences of the internet. When used appropriately, the internet is a powerful tool for day to day living and socializing via e-mails, web sites, posting news in blogs, messaging, Twitter, Instagram and FaceBook.

Unfortunately, issues arise when people use the internet inappropriately often writing targeted nasty messages using various electronic technologies such as mobile phones, IPods, iPads and computers and this constitutes 'Cyber Bullying'.

Many of our students use sites that contain instant messaging components that freely allow them to chat and post statements with other students often with the confidence to write things that they would not normally have the courage to say face to face.

If your child is using any social networking sites (i.e. Kik (kik.com), FaceBook (www.facebook.com), Twitter (twitter.com), Instagram (instagram.com), Pinsta (pinsta.me) etc.), please discuss the privacy settings they have set up for their account. If they are not sure, please look with them at their account settings and assist them to set up their privacy settings.

All of the sites mentioned above are designed for people over the age of 13, and some have strict terms and conditions stating that they prohibit people under the age of 13 from using them. If your child has negotiated with you to set up an account, it may be a good idea for part of that negotiation to include you having full access to their account, including their username and password.

All social networking sites include a help page that lists actions that can be taken in the event of cyberbullying, account hacking, inappropriate content and identity theft. If your child is experiencing any of these problems, or know of anyone else using a social networking site inappropriately, please assist them to report the issue directly to the site administration.

Thanking-you,

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