

## eSmart Policy

### Rationale:

William Ruthven Primary School recognises the importance of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in preparing students for the world around them and believes ICT is an integral part of teaching and learning within the curriculum. We aim for our students to be confident and safe users of these technologies. As an eSmart school, William Ruthven Primary School will promote cybersafety within its community. We believe that explicitly teaching students about safe and responsible online behaviour is essential, and is best taught in partnership with parents / guardians. We request that parents / guardians work with us and encourage this behaviour at home.

### 1. Aims:

- To promote the smart, safe and responsible use of ICT equipment and network and/or online based activities at WRPS.
- To support students in developing digital literacy and numeracy skills in a safe environment.
- To use digital technology skills and equipment for educational purposes.
- To provide support to parents/carers through information sessions and through student acceptable user agreements.
- To consistently outline and educate students in the smart, safe and responsible use of digital technologies and the internet.

### 2. Implementation:

All students will undertake a cybersafe program and will be required with their parents to sign and Acceptable Use Agreement before they are allowed online.

The school community will be provided with cybersafety information and access to resources on a regular basis.

Incidents of Cyberbullying will not be tolerated and will be dealt with in accordance with the WRPS wellbeing and engagement policy and DEECD guidelines.

**Cyberbullying:** is when a **child** is tormented, threatened, harassed, humiliated, embarrassed or targeted by another child using digital communication technologies including but not limited to; the internet and mobile communication devices. The term 'cyberbullying' implies multiple communications except in the case of credible threats to a child's wellbeing.

Safe and responsible online behaviour is explicitly taught at WRPS and parents/carers are requested to reinforce this behaviour at home. Parents can view a range of cybersafe programs and ideas at [www.cybersmart.gov.au](http://www.cybersmart.gov.au)

**Students are advised to report an incident if;**

- **they feel that the welfare of other students at the school is being threatened**
- **they have experienced an incident of Cyberbullying**
- **they come across sites which are not suitable for use at school**
- **someone writes something they don't like, or makes them and their friends feel uncomfortable or asks them to provide information that they know is private**
- **they accidentally do something which is against the rules and responsibilities they have agreed to.**

**All incidents of Cyberbullying must be referred to the I.T. Coordinator and Principal.**

Incidents will be investigated and recorded in a register maintained at the school. The school welfare and wellbeing policy will determine actions taken for breaches of this agreement. Any student who does not follow the rules of the Acceptable Use Agreement will lose their computer privileges for a length of time as decided appropriate by the Principal/Assistant Principal/Unit Co-ordinator. They will also be required to complete additional cybersafety lessons before their privileges are returned.

Parents will be notified and expected to meet with school staff if students are involved in any incidents of bullying/cyberbullying. Notification will also be given when computer privileges are returned.

### 3. Policy Evaluation and Review:

The policy is to be reviewed annually or as subject to WRPS policy.

### 4. References:

[www.cybersmart.gov.au](http://www.cybersmart.gov.au)

[www.esmartschools.org.au](http://www.esmartschools.org.au)

Ratification: School Council President: .....

Principal:.....

Ratified by School Council on: 18<sup>th</sup> August 2014