

eSmart Policy

Rationale

“Access to digital networks entails a responsibility for our neighbour whom we do not see but who is nonetheless real and has a dignity which must be respected.”

(Pope Francis, Message for 50th World Communications Day, 2016)

At St Elizabeth's we support the rights of members of the school community to be provided with and engage in a safe, inclusive and supportive learning environment. This extends to the use of digital tools and online communities and is underpinned by our expectation of safe and responsible behaviour of all members of the school community.

Aims

- Achieve accreditation as an eSmart school by meeting all criteria as outlined in the eSmart System Tool.
- To encourage our students to be responsible online citizens and develop safe practices.
- Further strengthen a culture at St Elizabeth's which is in keeping with the values of the school, legislative requirements and expectations outlined in the St Elizabeth's Student Wellbeing and Discipline Policy, Anti-Bullying Policy, Learning Technologies Policy, Student ICT Acceptable Use Agreement, Child Safety Code of Conduct and Child Safety Policy.

Implementation

- All staff are to be familiar with the above policy documents.
- At the beginning of each school year, and at any other time needed, teachers are to familiarise the students with the protocols and procedures that are in place for using digital technologies. Student learning about responsible digital citizenship is ongoing, but particular attention is given during our Media Arts/Digital Technologies specialist lessons.
- All students and parents must sign a copy of the Student ICT Acceptable Use Agreement annually.
- All staff must sign a copy of the Staff ICT Acceptable Use Agreement annually.
- Staff supervise students when using digital technologies for educational purposes and guidelines are in place for yard duty, before and after school supervision.
- Support parents/guardians to understand safe and responsible use of digital technologies, potential issues and the strategies they can implement at home to support their child.
- Provide regular newsletter articles that include current information from appropriate Government agencies such as the Office of the Children's eSafety Commissioner.
- In line with our policies, students are advised to report an incident if:
 - They have experienced an incident of cyberbullying
 - They see something that makes them feel upset or they need help
 - They come across sites which are not suitable for our school
 - They know someone else is upset or scared.
- The eSmart Policy applies during school hours including excursions, camps and extra-curricular activities.

Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's review cycle.