



Cyber Safety Policy

This policy relates to **Child Safe Standard 2, 3 & 6**

At St. Joseph's we hold the care, safety and wellbeing of children as a central and fundamental responsibility of our school. At all times, the ongoing safety and wellbeing of all children at St. Joseph's will be the primary focus of care and decision-making, with particular attention paid to the cultural safety of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, as well as the safety of children with a disability.

Definition:

Cyber-safety is made up of two strands: Cyber-bullying and Communicating Safely.

Cyber-bullying involves the use of information and communication technologies to support deliberate, repeated, and hostile behaviour by an individual or group that is intended to harm others. Bullies deliberately set out to intimidate, exclude, threaten and/or hurt others repeatedly. Bullying is a clear form of harassment. People who use the internet, email, intranets, phones or similar technologies to bully others are cyber-bullies and are breaking the law. Communicating Safely, reflects the need for students to remain safe while using online resources such as social networking tools, websites and online resources responsibly and respectfully, and with a care for their own safety and privacy.

Rationale:


- Bullying in any form is unacceptable. Bullying that is carried out through an internet service, such as email, chat room, discussion group or instant messaging, or through mobile phone technologies such as short messaging service (SMS), is cyber-bullying. Cyber-bullying will not be tolerated at any level, and consequences exist for students who choose to bully others.
- When speaking, posting content or meeting people online, internet users need to be aware that there are some risks, including inappropriate contact with other people. An understanding of these risks should reduce the dangers to our students.
- Students and parents are responsible for ensuring that cyber safety is essential, not just at school, but in the home and out of school.

Aims:

- To educate students on their role and responsibilities as a digital citizen, including awareness of dangers and managing their online identities (digital footprint)
- To reinforce within the school community what bullying is (including cyber-bullying), and the fact that it is unacceptable.
- To teach them about safe and responsible behaviours whilst on the internet.
- Everyone within the school community to be alert to signs and evidence of cyber-bullying and to have a responsibility to report it to staff, whether as observer or victim.
- To ensure that all reported incidents of cyber-bullying at the school are investigated appropriately and that support is given to both victims and perpetrators.
- To seek parental and peer-group support and co-operation at all times.

Implementation:

- Students and teachers will be made aware of our school's eSmart guidelines.

St Joseph's Primary School	System Update: 21. 04. 2020	
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- Students and teachers will work through/discuss these issues using our school's ICT Scope and Sequence.
- Parents, teachers, students and the community will be aware of the school's position on cyber- bullying.
- All students and parents are required to sign an ICT Agreement. Part of this process is having a sound understanding of the agreement they are signing. Teachers and parents play an integral role in instilling and reinforcing the points that are in this ICT agreement.
- Teachers will be regularly reminded of their duty of care regarding protection of students from all forms of bullying.
- Parents will be encouraged to work closely with their child in their use of information and communication technology out of school hours, reinforcing cyber-safety and monitoring risks of bullying.


THE SCHOOL WILL ADOPT A FOUR-PHASE APPROACH TO BULLYING

A. Primary Prevention:

- Professional development for staff relating to all forms of bullying including cyber-bullying, harassment and proven counter measures.
- Educate the school community about the seriousness of cyber-bullying, its impact on those being bullied and how this behaviour is unacceptable.
- Provide parents with information and support in order to maintain vigilance and cyber-safety in the home.
- Community awareness and input relating to bullying (including cyber-bullying), its characteristics and the school's programs and response.
- Provide programs that promote resilience, life and social skills, assertiveness, conflict resolution and problem solving.
- Provide eSmart curriculum to all students, as outlined on the ICT Scope and Sequence plan.
- Each classroom teacher to clarify with students at the start of each year the school policies in relation to bullying, cyber-safety and eSmart guidelines.
- All students in Grade 3 to 6 are provided with individual and confidential computer passwords. Processes have been put in place to ensure efficient tracking of student activity on the school's computer equipment and network. The school's 'Education Channel System,' stops students from accessing inappropriate sites. 'SINA' tracks rejected attempts to access inappropriate sites. Firewalls are installed to eliminate outside traffic into the school's network and intranet e.g. ZScaler CEM

B. Early Intervention:

- Children are to report to their teacher any school, cyber-bullying incidents involving themselves or others. Teachers will then report this to the Principal, Leadership Team and eLearning Leader.
- Classroom teachers and principal on a regular basis remind students and staff to report incidents of cyber-bullying
- Regular monitoring of traffic on school's computer networks to identify potential problems.

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- Parents are encouraged to contact school if they become aware of a problem that occurs at school.
- Recognition and reward for positive behaviour and resolution of problems.

C. Intervention:

- Once identified, each bully, victim and witnesses will be spoken with, and all incidents or allegations of bullying will be fully investigated and documented.
- Parents to be contacted.
- Students and staff identified by others as bullies will be informed of allegations.
- Both bullies and victims will be offered counselling and support.
- Removal of cyber-bullies from access to the school's network and computers for a period of time.
- If student bullying persists parents will be contacted and consequences implemented consistent with the school's Student Code of Conduct.

D. Post Violation:

- Consequences for students violating the Cyber-Safety Policy at school will be individually based and may involve:
 - Exclusion from class.
 - Exclusion from yard.
 - School suspension.
 - Withdrawal of privileges.
 - Ongoing monitoring of identified bullies
 - Ongoing counselling and support from appropriate agencies for both victim and bully.
 - Further investigation and involvement including police