

BOX HILL NORTH PRIMARY SCHOOL

Cyber Safety and Digital Citizenship Policy

RATIONALE

Box Hill North Primary School endeavours to foster positive relationships and consistent practices across the school community that supports improved student engagement and wellbeing. Box Hill North Primary School and The Australian Government believes 'student wellbeing and safety are essential for academic and social development. All students should be able to learn and develop in safe, supportive and respectful environments. Australian schools, families and communities all have a responsibility to provide safe online environments and teach children how to use technology in positive and productive ways'. (Australian Government 2012)

21st century students spend increasing amounts of time online learning and collaborating. To be safe online and to gain the greatest benefit from the opportunity provided through an online environment, students need to know how to protect themselves online and interact appropriately with others, particularly when no one is watching.

Box Hill North Primary School believes the teaching of cyber safety and responsible online behaviour is essential in the lives of students and should be explicitly taught at school.

At Box Hill North Primary School, being 'cyber safe' means; learning, working, interacting and being respected by others when using ICT (Information and Communication Technologies) without the presence or fear of cyber bullying.

eSmart defines Cyber Risk as '*potential threats to the wellbeing of users of technology within the community*' which may include Cyber Exploitation which is the '*use of the internet to manipulate others for one's own self-serving or dishonest ends*' and Cyber-Attack which is a '*one off act of aggression, denigration or nastiness against a specific student, via technology*'.

Cyber Bullying is '*direct verbal or indirect bullying behaviours using digital technologies. This includes harassment via a mobile phone, setting up a defamatory personal website or deliberately excluding someone from social networking spaces.*' (DEECD 2012)

PURPOSE

The Cyber Safety Policy aims to achieve student wellbeing through the following objectives:

- developing a whole school approach to dealing with cyber bullying
- providing information and support for parents on cyber safety
- explicitly teaching students how to be 'cyber safe.'
- providing clear guidelines and expectations for dealing with cyber bullying.

IMPLEMENTATION

The Principal and Assistant Principal will have overall responsibility for implementation of the Cyber Safety Policy. Successful implementation is the responsibility of **all** school community members.

Staff at Box Hill North Primary School have the responsibility of ensuring:

- all forms of cyber bullying are prohibited
- they participate in ongoing training to ensure they are aware of how to identify and report cyber bullying
- students are explicitly explained the consequences of cyber bullying.
- an acceptable use agreement is discussed and agreed upon by all students and parents and is updated yearly.
- cyber bullying and cyber safety is part of the Student Wellbeing Program
- teachers will provide lessons on cyber safety and will allow time for students to explore and research related topics.

Students at Box Hill North Primary School have the responsibility of ensuring they:

- do not participate in cyber bullying in any of its forms
- immediately report any incident of cyber bullying to their teacher
- do not use mobile phones, cameras or other digital devices to record audio and visual material that is not authorised as part of the school curriculum program
- do not disseminate inappropriate information through digital media or other means
- advise students victimised by cyber bullying to talk about it and to report it.

Parents/ Guardians have the responsibility of ensuring they:

- read and discuss the Technology and Services Acceptable Use Agreement with their child
- carefully monitor student's internet use outside school hours

- inform their child's class teacher of changing circumstances which relate to the on-going wellbeing of their child
- be supportive and aware of school policies relating to cyber safety and wellbeing.

PRACTISES

- at the begin of each school year, teachers will plan and implement a minimum of two hours of lessons explicitly related to cyber safety
- cyber safety will continue to be taught throughout the year
- teachers will ensure new students and their parents understand the school's Acceptable Use Agreement and will teach new students the school's values.
- The ICT coordinator will ensure new staff are aware of the school's practises and procedures in all areas of cyber safety
- The school has a uniform incident reporting process for students and teachers, governed by the ICT co-ordinator
- The ICT co-ordinator collects and monitors data relating to incidents.

MONITORING AND REVIEW

- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's four year review cycle in line with eSmart policies.

Updated: June 2014

Next policy review: 2018

Approved by School Council