

Policy eSMART

Echuca Primary School recognises the importance of Information Communication Technology in preparing students for the world around them and believes ICT is an integral part of the curriculum. ICT provides students with unprecedented opportunities to obtain information, engage in discussion, and liaise with individuals, organisation and group's world- wide so as to increase skills, knowledge and abilities. The school is committed to reducing students' exposure to cyber- risks (such as cyberbullying, online sexual predation, sexting, identity theft and fraud) when using the Internet, mobile phones and other electronic personal devices. This policy should be read in conjunction with the 'EPS eSmart Use of ICT Guidelines'.

Purpose:

The aim of the policy is to:

- Establish an eSmart culture which is in keeping with the values of the school and the expectations outlined in the EPS 'eSmart Use of ICT Guidelines' and the EPS Student Engagement Policy which includes actions and consequences for inappropriate behaviour.
- Educate EPS students to be smart, safe, responsible and ethical users of digital technologies.
- Recognise that explicitly teaching students about safe and responsible online behaviour is essential in the lives of students and is best taught in partnership between home and school.
- Achieve accreditation as an eSmart school by meeting all criteria as outlined in the eSmart System Tools.

Implementation:

1. EPS staff are trained in the philosophies of the eSmart program and are provided with the information necessary for Cyber safety education.
2. All EPS students will undertake a Cyber safe program and will be required with their parents to sign an eSmart Agreement before they will be permitted to use any information and communications technology (ICT) at school.
3. The school community will be provided with Cyber safety information on a regular basis.
4. Safe and responsible online behaviour is explicitly taught at our school and parents/carers are requested to reinforce this behaviour at home.
5. EPS staff will raise student awareness of issues such as online privacy and intellectual property including copyright, and that some online activities are illegal and will be reported to police.
6. EPS will supervise students when using digital technologies for educational purposes and provide a filtered internet service whilst acknowledging that full protection from inappropriate content can never be guaranteed.
7. Mobile phones and other personal electronic devices may only be brought to school with prior permission of the Principal. Parents and students must comply with the conditions of use as outlined in Section 8 of the EPS 'eSmart Use of ICT Guidelines', which prohibits students from accessing mobile phones and other personal electronic devices within the school grounds.
8. EPS will respond to issues or incidents that have the potential to impact on the wellbeing of our students.
9. All incidents of Cyberbullying must be referred to the Principal and the ICT coordinator for investigation and any action taken will be in line with the Student Engagement Policy. Incidents of Cyberbullying will not be tolerated at Echuca Primary School and victims and their carers will be encouraged to report incidents to law enforcement bodies.

Echuca Primary School

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10. Parents will be notified and expected to meet with school staff if students are involved in any incidents of cyberbullying.

11. 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 their 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.

12. Any student who does not follow the rules of the eSmart Agreement and the 'EPS eSmart Use of ICT Guidelines' will lose their ICT privileges for a length of time as deemed appropriate by the Principal and ICT Coordinator. They will also be required to complete additional Cyber safety lessons before their privileges are returned.

13. The eSmart Agreement also applies during school excursions, camps and extra –curricular activities.

This policy was last ratified by School Council - Monday September 14, 2015

