

Cyber-Safety Use Agreement for Preschool to Year 4 Children



CYBER-SAFETY AT RICHMOND PRIMARY SCHOOL

Dear Parent/Caregiver,

The measures to ensure the cyber-safety of Richmond Primary School are based on our core values. To assist us to enhance learning through the safe use of information and communication technologies (ICTs), we are now asking you to please read this document.

Rigorous cyber-safety practices are in place, which include Cyber-Safety Use Agreements for staff and students. Child Protection education, such as the Keeping Safe Child Protection Curriculum, includes information about remaining safe when using new technologies and is provided to all learners.

The computer network, Internet access facilities, computers and other ICT equipment/devices bring great benefits to the teaching and learning programs at Richmond Primary School, and to the effective operation of the school. The ICT equipment is for educational purposes appropriate to this environment, whether it is owned or leased either partially or wholly by the school, and used on or off the site.

The overall goal of Richmond Primary School is to create and maintain a "Cyber-Safety Culture" that is in keeping with our values and with legislative and professional obligations. The Use Agreement includes information about your obligations, responsibilities, and the nature of possible consequences associated with cyber-safety breaches that undermine the safety of the school environment.

Bullying has taken on a new dimension with the introduction of new forms of electronic communication. Cyber bullying can be perpetrated at any time of the day or week. This behaviour can threaten the safety or wellbeing of others.

Under regulations 40 and 41 of the Education Regulations 1997, principals can suspend or exclude a student who acts in a manner that threatens the safety or wellbeing of a student or member of staff, or another person associated with the school. These regulations do not preclude an event that occurs outside of school hours or off site. Principals can therefore use these procedures with a student enrolled at their school if the principal believes, on reasonable grounds, that the student has acted in such a manner, even if this behaviour occurred outside of school hours or off site.

All learners will be issued with a Use Agreement and once signed consent has been returned to school, learners will be able to use the school ICT equipment.

Material sent and received using the network may be monitored, and filtering and/or monitoring software may be used to restrict access to certain sites and data, including e-mail.

While every reasonable effort is made by schools, preschools and DECD administrators to prevent children's exposure to inappropriate content when using the department's online services, it is not possible to completely eliminate the risk of such exposure. In particular, DECD cannot filter Internet content accessed by your child from home, from other locations away from school or on mobile devices owned by your child. DECD recommends the use of appropriate Internet filtering software.

More information about Internet filtering can be found on the websites of the Australian Communications and Media Authority at <http://www.acma.gov.au>, NetAlert at <http://www.netalert.gov.au>, the Kids Helpline at <http://www.kidshelp.com.au> and Bullying No Way at <http://www.bullyingnoway.com.au>.

Please contact the principal, if you have any concerns about your child's safety in using the Internet and ICT equipment/devices.

Important terms:

'Cyber-safety' refers to the safe use of the Internet and ICT equipment/devices, including mobile phones.

'Cyber bullying' is bullying which uses e-technology as a means of victimising others. It is the use of an Internet service or mobile technologies - such as e-mail, chat room discussion groups, instant messaging, webpages or SMS (text messaging) - with the intention of harming another person.

'School and preschool ICT' refers to the school's or preschool's computer network, Internet access facilities, computers, and other ICT equipment/devices as outlined below.

'ICT equipment/devices' includes computers (such as desktops, laptops, PDAs), storage devices (such as USB and flash memory devices, CDs, DVDs, floppy disks, iPods, MP3 players), cameras (such as video and digital cameras and webcams), all types of mobile phones, gaming consoles, video and audio players/receivers (such as portable CD and DVD players), and any other, similar, technologies.

'Inappropriate material' means material that deals with matters such as sex, cruelty or violence in a manner that is likely to be injurious to children or incompatible with a school or preschool environment.

'E-crime' occurs when computers or other electronic communication equipment/devices (eg Internet, mobile phones) are used to commit an offence, are targeted in an offence, or act as storage devices in an offence.



Strategies to help keep Richmond Primary School Cyber-safe

Parents/caregivers play a critical role in developing knowledge, understanding and ethics around their child's safety and safe practices regardless of the time of day. Being cyber-safe is no exception and we invite you to discuss with your child the following strategies to help us stay safe when using ICT at school and after formal school hours.

1. I will use school ICT equipment only when my parents/caregivers have signed my Use Agreement form and the completed form has been returned to school.
2. I will use the computers and other ICT equipment only for my learning and only with my teacher's permission.
3. I will go online or use the Internet at school only when a teacher gives permission and an adult is present.
4. If there is something I'm not sure about, I will ask my teacher.
5. I will use the Internet, e-mail, mobile phones and any other ICT equipment only for positive purposes.
Therefore, I will not be mean, rude or unkind to or about other people.
6. I will keep my password private.
7. If I find anything that upsets me, is mean or rude, or that I know is not acceptable at our school, I will:
 - not show others
 - turn off the screen
 - get a teacher straight away.
8. Only with written permission from home and the school will I bring any ICT equipment/devices to school. This includes things like mobile phones, iPods, games, cameras, and USB/portable drives. I understand these devices are NOT to be used during school hours and are to be handed into the front office at the beginning of the school day and collected at home time.
9. I will ask my teacher's permission before I put any personal information online. Personal identifying information includes any of the following:
 - my full name
 - my address
 - my e-mail address
 - my phone numbers
 - photos of me and/or people close to me.
10. I will be careful and will look after all our school ICT equipment by:
 - not being silly and playing around with it
 - following our school cyber-safety strategies
 - telling a teacher about anything wrong or damaged.
11. If I'm not cyber-safe, the school may need to tell my parents/caregivers and there may be consequences associated with my behaviour.