

# **TECHNOLOGY**

## **ACCEPTABLE USE OF THE INTERNET POLICY AND CODE OF BEHAVIOUR**

### **Internet Acceptable Use Policy**

The internet is a wonderful resource that adds another dimension to topics being studied in class. It allows students to collect and share information and communicate and collaborate with people from around the world. The internet offers facilities that can enhance students' learning opportunities and outcomes in all key learning areas.

In addition to the information available on the internet, the school also publishes its own website and Facebook page providing students and parents with access to additional information and resources and showcasing some of the amazing students and staff at our school.

It should be noted that while the internet possesses vast stores of information and educational resources, there are also undesirable aspects of the internet including:

- Socially and culturally inappropriate material
- Offensive material
- Gambling sites
- Misinformation
- Inappropriate use of social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram etc.

The NSW Department of Education provides the internet service free of charge to schools. To maintain a safe and appropriate environment for students accessing the internet, all internet access at school is filtered automatically at the service provider to prevent known undesirable sites from being accessed. In addition to the filter, access is given under teacher supervision, not always directly.

It is expected that outside of school hours, students' internet use has parental permission and is monitored and supervised.

### **Internet Code of Behaviour**

It is the school's policy that ALL internet access is for educational purposes only. The following outlines the school's code of behaviour.

Publishing on the internet:

- Communication through email, via school's website, Oliver and Google Apps For Education (including Google Classroom and Google Sites) is treated as a form of publishing. Students must gain teacher approval for publication and sharing.
- No student will be identified by full name and no contact details will be published.

Downloading and service subscription:

- Students will not knowingly access inappropriate sites and those which are non-educational.
- Teacher approval will be gained before downloading software, screensavers and other utilities not essential for browsing the internet.

Receipt of inappropriate internet material - In the case of inappropriate material being displayed on screen, students must minimise the screen and **inform the teacher immediately**. The teacher will notify the Department of the incident.

Equity of Access to the internet - All students with parental permission will use the internet as part of classroom studies as appropriate.

Copyright Issues - Any material accessed and utilised from the internet will be acknowledged and copyright respected.

The use of Social Media - In line with DOE policy, no form of social media is to be accessed by students at any time during school hours. Parents are reminded that the minimum age requirement for most social media sites is 13 or higher.

### **The Consequences**

Breaches of the Code of Behaviour will result in loss of access to the internet, loss or restricted use of digital devices (including personal devices as part of the BYOD program) or as specified in the School's Discipline Policy. Restricted use of devices will be 1 day, 3 days, 5 days and increased in accordance with the frequency and nature of the Code of Behaviour breaches.

### **Mobile Phones and Smart Watches**

The Department of Education recently released an updated policy regarding the use of mobile phones and smart watches by students during school hours. It states very clearly that mobile phones are to be handed in at the beginning of the day (class teachers at BPS) and then collected at the end of the day. No primary school student is permitted to have access to a transmitting device (i.e. phone, smartwatch) during school hours. Breaches of this policy may result in devices being confiscated and needing to be collected by parents.

### **Code of Conduct Agreement**

I have read and discussed the content of the Acceptable Use of the Internet Policy and Code of Behaviour with my child \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_ and understand and agree to the following:

- I allow my child to access the internet at school for educational purposes under the direction and guidance of a teacher.

**Parent/Carer Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Carer Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

**Please sign and return this Agreement to your class teacher.**