INTERNET ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

Introduction

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 area and generic skills.

In addition to the information available from the internet, the school also has the opportunity to publish its own website providing the benefits of developing literacy, writing and critical thinking skills.

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 site
- Misinformation

The NSW Department of Education and Training provided the internet service free of charge to schools. In order to maintain a safe and appropriate environment for students accessing the internet, all internet access to schools 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, but this supervision may not always be direct.

Code of Behaviour

It is the school’s policy that ALL internet access is to be for educational purpose only. The following outlines the school’s code of behaviour.

Publishing on the Internet:
- Communication through e-mail and via the School’s internet website is treated as a form of publishing. Students must gain teacher approval for publication.
- Students will observe the rules of “Netiquette”.

Downloading information and Signing Up for Services:
- Students will not knowingly access or attempt to access sites that are inappropriate or not of an educational nature.
- Students must gain teacher approval before downloading software, screensavers and other utilities not essential to browsing the internet.
- Students must not sign up for any services available on the internet without first gaining teacher approval.
Receipt of Inappropriate Internet material:
- In the case of an inappropriate site or image being displayed on a computer, the student must immediately turn off or minimize the screen and quietly report it to the teacher. All inappropriate sites will be reported to the Department in order to have them included in the filter.

Equity of Access to the Internet:
- All students with parental permission will be given the opportunity to use the internet as part of their classroom studies as appropriate.

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

The Consequences

Breaches of the Code of Behaviour will result in loss of access to the internet or as specified in the School’s Discipline Policy.

Code of Behaviour Agreement for Students

I have read and discussed the issues raised in the school’s Internet User Access Policy with my Parents/Carers. I understand that the internet access provided by my school is for the accessing of information of value for my studies. I agree to follow the guidelines for access as listed above. I understand I face disciplinary action if I break this agreement.

Students Name: __________________________________________________________

Signed: __________________________________________________________________ Date: __________________

Parents/Carers Agreement for Students

I have read and discussed the issues raised in the school’s Internet User Access Policy with my child.

Parent/Carer Name: __________________________________________________________

Signed: __________________________________________________________________ Date: __________________
HEALTHY LIFE STYLES DRUG EDUCATION PERMISSION NOTE

I give permission for my child to participate in the school’s Drug Education Program. Yes ☐ No ☐

Signed .................................................... Date.................................
(Parent/Guardian)

KINDERGARTEN TO YEAR 6 PERMISSION NOTE - CHILD PROTECTION

I give permission for my child to participate in the Child Protection Program at Birchgrove Public School. I understand that all lessons will be age appropriate and that correct anatomical names will be used when discussing parts of the human body. Yes ☐ No ☐

I give permission for my child to participate in lessons which are specifically anatomical. Yes ☐ No ☐

Signed.................................................... Date.................................

PRIVACY ISSUE - USE OF YOUR CHILD’S PHOTO, WORK ETC.

I give permission for my child’s photo to be used by the media (i.e. local newspaper) Yes ☐ No ☐

I give permission for my child’s photo to appear in the school newsletter & website. Yes ☐ No ☐

I understand that if at any time my decision changes I will notify the school in writing.

Signed.................................................... Date.................................
(Parent/Guardian)

EMERGENCY MEDICAL ATTENTION

Signing this form allows the school to seek medical attention for your child in case of accident, emergency or sudden sickness. (Every endeavour will be made to contact you initially.)

Signed:.................................................... Date.................................
(Parent/Guardian)

ACTIVITIES REQUIRING WALKING

I give permission for my child to walk to venues outside the school grounds during normal school time, and with teacher supervision, to participate in educational activities that have the approval of the principal. Yes ☐ No ☐

I understand that I will be notified of these activities beforehand through notes to parents and through the school newsletter.

Signed:.................................................... Date.................................
(Parent/Guardian)