eSMART POLICY

Basic Beliefs

Berwick Lodge Primary School recognises the importance of Digital Technologies in preparing students for the world around them and believes Digital Technologies is an integral part of teaching and learning within the curriculum. We aim for our students to be confident and safe users of these technologies. As an eSmart school, Berwick Lodge Primary School will promote cybersafety within its community. We believe that explicitly teaching students about safe and responsible online behaviour is essential, and is best taught in partnership with parents / guardians. We request that parents / guardians work with us and encourage this behaviour at home.

Our school will be an eSmart school and will promote cyber smart practices.

Goals

- To consistently outline and educate students in the safe, responsible and ethical use of digital technologies and the Internet.
- To promote the safe, responsible and ethical use of Digital Technology equipment and network at BLPS.
- To support students in developing digital literacy in a safe environment.
- To use digital technology skills and equipment for educational purposes.
- To provide support to parents/carers through information sessions, the BLPS eSmart blog, newsletters and through student acceptable user agreements.

Guidelines

All students will undertake a cybersafe program and will be required with their parents to sign an Acceptable Use Agreement before they are allowed access to the school network and digital technology equipment.

The school community will be provided with cybersafety information and access to resources on a regular basis.

Incidents of cyberbullying will not be tolerated and will be dealt with in accordance with the BLPS wellbeing and engagement policy and DET guidelines.

Cyberbullying: is when a child is tormented, threatened, harassed, humiliated, embarrassed or targeted by another child using digital communication technologies including but not limited to; the internet and mobile communication devices. The term 'cyberbullying' implies multiple communications except in the case of credible threats to a child's wellbeing.

Safe and responsible online behaviour is explicitly taught at BLPS and parents/carers are requested to reinforce this behaviour at home. Parents can view a range of cybersafe programs and ideas at www.cybersmart.gov.au

Students are advised to report an incident if;

- they feel that the welfare of themselves or other students at the school is being threatened
- they have experienced an incident of cyberbullying
- they come across sites which are not suitable for use at school
- someone 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.

All incidents of Cyberbullying must be referred to the Digital Technologies Coordinator, the Student Wellbeing Co-ordinator and if deemed necessary the Student Wellbeing Committee and Principal Class.

Incidents will be investigated and recorded in Student Wellbeing records. The school welfare and wellbeing policy will determine actions taken for breaches of this agreement. Any student who does not follow the rules of the Acceptable Use Agreement will lose their computer privileges for a length of time as decided appropriate by the Digital Technologies Co-ordinator in conjunction with the Student Wellbeing Co-ordinator. They will also be required to complete additional cybersafety lessons before their privileges are returned.

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

Notification will also be given when computer privileges are returned

Responsibility for Implementation
The Student Wellbeing Team together with the Digital Technologies Coordinator will be responsible for the implementation and continuous monitoring of the policy

Date Passed by School Council
The eSmart Policy was passed by School Council on 16th May 2022.

Proposed Date of Review
The School Wellbeing Sub-Committee will be responsible for coordinating and planning the review of the eSmart Policy, under the auspices of School Council. The review period will be three years from the policy being passed by School Council.