

*Westgarth Primary School is a community of students, staff, friends and family working together to create a diverse, engaging and respectful learning environment.*

## **Rationale**

Information and Communications Technology (ICT) is the hardware and software that enables data to be digitally processed, stored and communicated. ICT can be used to access, process, manage and present information; model and control events; construct new understanding; and communicate with others. ICT is used as a tool to support student learning at school.

Westgarth Primary School believes the teaching of safe and responsible use of technology, especially when online, is essential in the lives of students and is best taught in partnership between home and school.

21<sup>st</sup> century students spend increasing amounts of time online, learning and collaborating. To be safe online and to gain the greatest benefit from the learning opportunities provided through an online environment, students need to do the right thing by themselves and others online, particularly when no one is watching.

Safe and responsible behaviour is explicitly taught at our school and parents/carers are requested to reinforce this behaviour at home.

## **Aims**

ICT, an interdisciplinary domain, focuses on providing students with the tools to transform their learning and to enrich their learning environment. The knowledge, skills and behaviours identified for this domain enable students to:

- develop new thinking and learning skills that produce creative and innovative insights;
- develop more productive ways of working and solving problems individually and collaboratively;
- create information products that demonstrate their understanding of concepts, issues, relationships and processes;
- express themselves in contemporary and socially relevant ways;
- communicate locally and globally to solve problems and to share knowledge;
- understand the implications of the use of ICT and their social and ethical responsibilities as users of ICT;
- evaluate the appropriateness, reliability and usefulness of programs or online resources.

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## **Guidelines**

### **The Role of the School:**

The school undertakes a commitment to provide appropriate physical and financial resources to facilitate the successful incorporation of ICT throughout the curriculum. In addition, the school will promote and support: the up-skilling of the school community; compliance with legal requirements; and the effective inclusion of ICT into the school's curriculum through its planning and procedures.

### **The Role of the Staff within the school:**

The school expects that each staff member will integrate ICT throughout the curriculum (as with any other curriculum resource) and provide guidance, supervision and instructions to students in the appropriate use of such resources. Staff will facilitate student access to curriculum information resources appropriate to the individual student instructional needs, learning styles, abilities and developmental levels. Leading Teachers and experienced staff will model effective use of ICT resources for classroom use.

### **The Role of Parents:**

At school the Internet is mostly used to support teaching and learning. At home, however, it is often used differently. Not only is it a study resource for students, but it is increasingly being used for entertainment purposes and as a social space to meet, play and chat.

If you have the Internet at home, encourage your child to show you what they are doing online. If not, see if you can make a time to visit the school to see their work.

At home, it is advised that parents:

- Make some time to sit with their child to find out how they are using the Internet and who else is involved in any online activities
- Have the computer with Internet access in a shared place in the house – not their child's bedroom
- Ask questions when their child shows them what they are doing, such as:
  - How does it work and how do you set it up?
  - Who is else is sharing this space or game - did you know them before or "meet" them online?
  - Why is this so enjoyable – what makes it fun?
  - Can you see any risks or dangers in the activity - what would you say to warn/inform a younger child?

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- What are you doing to protect yourself or your friends from these potential dangers?
- When would you inform an adult about an incident that has happened online that concerns you? Discuss why their child might keep it to themselves.
- Remember that children should not have access to such social media sites / apps as Twitter, Instagram, Facebook and Kik until they are 13 years old.
- Check age ratings for video games.
- Monitor any online gaming communication on computer, Playstation, Xbox and Nintendo devices.

Statistics show that students will not approach an adult for help because:

- they might get the blame for any incident
- they don't think adults "get" their online stuff – it is for students only
- they might put at risk their own access to technology by either:
  - admitting to a mistake or
  - highlighting a situation that might lead a parent to ban their access.

**The Role of Students:**

Students shall understand and commit to an annual contract of an **Acceptable Use** with the providers (school) See Appendix 1 and 2. Individual users of the school ICT resources are responsible for their behaviour and communications over the network. Lack of compliance may result in loss of access or consequences in line with the school motto and policy for student behaviour.

Appendix 1 – ICT Resources and Internet Acceptable Use Policy Years P-2

Appendix 2 – ICT Resources and Internet Acceptable Use Policy Years 3-6

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