

Southport State School eSmart Policy

Aim/Scope

At Southport State School, we are a community of **safe**, **respectful learners**. We believe that by upholding these values we strive to create positive, predictable environments for all students at all times.

This document complements the [Student Code of Conduct](#) and serves as a guideline of behaviour expectations for all students, staff, families and community stakeholders, when using online environments both at school and outside of school whilst communicating with other students. This eSmart Policy aims to:

- Educate students on their role and responsibilities as a digital citizen, including awareness of dangers and managing their online identities and digital footprint.
- Reinforce within the school community what bullying is and is not (including cyberbullying), and the fact that it is unacceptable.
- To ensure everyone within the school community is alert to signs and evidence of cyberbullying and that we all have a responsibility to report it to staff, whether as observer or victim.
- Ensure that all reported incidents of cyberbullying are investigated appropriately and that support is given to both victims and perpetrators.
- Seek parental and peer-group support and co-operation at all times.

Rationale

We believe bullying in any form is unacceptable. Bullying that is carried out through an internet service such as email, chat room, discussion group or instant messaging, or through mobile phone technologies is cyberbullying. Cyberbullying will not be tolerated at any level, and consequences exist for students who bully others online as they do in real world situations.

When speaking, posting content or meeting people online, internet users need to be aware that there are some risks, including inappropriate contact with other people. An understanding of these risks should reduce the dangers to our students.

Implementation

- Students, parents/carers and teachers will be made aware of our school's eSmart Policy and the student user agreement
- Parents/carers, teachers, students and the community will be aware of the school's position on cyberbullying. Students will be upskilled and required to sign the student eSmart Agreement.
- Teachers will be regularly reminded of their duty of care regarding protection of students from all forms of bullying

Our school will adopt a four-phase approach to cyberbullying as follows:

A. Primary Prevention:

- Professional development provided to the staff and community facilitated by the ‘Connect workshops’ relating to all forms of bullying including cyberbullying, harassment and proven counter measures.
- Educate the school community about the seriousness of cyberbullying, its impact on those being harassed or bullied and how this behaviour is unacceptable through providing important documents and links on our school website.
- Community awareness and input relating to bullying including cyberbullying, its characteristics and the school’s programs and response.
- Utilising SSET lessons and Restorative Justice Practices to promote resilience, life and social skills, assertiveness, conflict resolution and problem solving.
- Provide eSmart curriculum to all students, as outlined on the ICT Scope and Sequence plan.
- Each classroom teacher to clarify with students at the start of each year the school policies in relation to bullying, Cybersafety and eSmart guidelines.
- All students to be provided with individual and confidential computer and network logins and passwords.
- Processes are in place to ensure tracking of student activity on the school’s computer equipment and network. Firewalls eliminate outside traffic into the school’s network.
- Students to be informed of our mobile phone and digital devices process through the eSmart Student User Agreement.
- Students being empowered in the use of the “report cyberbullying” button on all school desktops.

B. Early Intervention:

- Encourage children and staff to report cyberbullying incidents involving themselves or others. Staff are to triage any issues by consulting the [Incident Response Procedure](#) document for appropriate course of action.
- Classroom teachers and administration on a regular basis remind students and staff to report incidents of cyberbullying via newsletter or on assembly.
- Regular monitoring of traffic on school's computer networks to identify potential problems conducted by our IT Manager in consultation with administration.
- Parents are encouraged to contact the school if they become aware of a problem via the portal on the eSmart tab of the school website.

C. Intervention:

- When an incident of cyberbullying is reported, any identified bully, victim and witnesses will be spoken with, and all incidents or allegations of bullying will be fully investigated and documented.
- Parents will be contacted as a courtesy to ensure they are aware of the issue and understand the process followed by the school.
- Both the aggrieved and perpetrators will be offered counselling and support.

D. Post Violation:

Consequences for students will be imposed individually at the discretion of administration based on the severity of the incident and may involve:-

- Withdrawal of privileges
- Exclusion from play
- Exclusion from class IT activities
- Ongoing counselling from appropriate agency for both the aggrieved and perpetrator
- School suspension
- Criminal charges being laid by police

Publication Date: June 2021

Review Date: November 2021

Ratification:

This policy was adopted at the School P&C meeting held at Southport State School, on March 17th, 2021.



Signed:
P & C President



Signed:
Principal

References:

- Alana & Madeline Foundation – www.amf.org.au
- Bullying No Way – www.bullyingnoway.com.au
- Child Safety Youth and Women – <https://www.csyw.qld.gov.au/campaign/stop-cyberbullying>
- eSafety Commissioner – <https://www.esafety.gov.au/>
- Education Queensland Cybersafety – <https://www.qld.gov.au/education/schools/health/cybersafety/cybersafety-gss>
- Kids Helpline 1800 551 800 – <https://kidshelpline.com.au/>
- Queensland Police Service – <https://www.police.qld.gov.au/reporting/reporting-cybercrime/children-and-the-internet>