



## CYBERSAFETY POLICY

Pentland Primary School has a responsibility to provide a safe and supportive environment for all members of the school community. Every individual in our school community is valued and has the right to feel safe from bullying or harassment in all its forms. All members of our school community are responsible for the safety of other individuals in our community. Bullying in any form will not be tolerated. Cyber bullying should be considered within this context.

### **What is Cyberbullying?**

**Cyberbullying** is direct verbal or indirect bullying behaviours using digital technologies. This includes harassment via a mobile phone, setting up a defamatory personal website or deliberately excluding someone from social networking spaces.

Cyber bullying can take place in many forms including:

- the sending of abusive texts or emails
- taking and sharing unflattering or private images, including naked or sexual images
- posting unkind messages or inappropriate images on social networking sites
- excluding individuals from online chats or other communication
- assuming the identity of the victim online and representing them in a negative manner or manner that may damage their relationship with others
- repeatedly and for no strategic reasons attacking players in online gaming.

### **Policy Objectives:**

To educate and reinforce within the school community what cyberbullying is and the fact that it is unacceptable

To educate students in the ethical use of technology

To ensure that there is purposeful teaching of cyber safety and responsible use of digital technologies and the internet

To inform all members of the school community that they should be alert for the signs and/or evidence of cyber bullying and that they have a responsibility to report it to the school whether as an observer or victim

To ensure that appropriate investigations of all reported incidents of cyberbullying are undertaken and that both victim and perpetrator are given support

To gain parental support and cooperation in the school's endeavours to promote cyber safety and the prevention of cyber bullying.

### **Implementation:**

- Teachers will have access to professional learning opportunities about the use of digital technologies.
- There will be specific teaching of the safe use of technologies for students.
- The school will implement the eSmart program
- The school will distribute internet safety awareness information to parents.
- Students will be required to sign an Acceptable Use of Technology and the Internet Agreement.
- The school will have in place processes to monitor student activity on the school's computer equipment and network. Proxy settings and firewalls will be maintained and updated to eliminate outside activity into the school's network and intranet.
- A process for reporting cyber bullying will be established.
- The school will have an eSmart contact person.

- Staff, students and parents will be reminded regularly to report any incidents of cyber bullying.

**The school will play an active role in promoting the safe use of digital technologies by:**

- encouraging students to not communicate with strangers online
- warning against providing a mobile phone number to a stranger
- cautioning against adding strangers as friends on social networking websites
- encouraging students to immediately report concerns of online stranger danger to parents/carers, teachers or another adult
- explaining why students should not send, or participate in, the production or forwarding of abusive or offensive digital materials.

**Responding to Incidents of Cyberbullying**

In the first instance the school will refer to the school's Anti Bullying Policy and implement the procedures contained therein for dealing with bullies and victims.

- When an incident or an allegation of cyber bullying is reported it will be thoroughly investigated and documented.
- The bully, victim and witnesses will be interviewed.
- Both the bully and the victim will be offered support.
- Parents will be contacted to alert them to the issue and to arrange meetings if necessary.
- If the bullying continues the cyberbullies access to the school network, computers and other digital resources may be removed for a period of time to be determined by the principal.
- Extremely serious incidents of cyber bullying will be reported to the police.

**Date effective from:** July 2019  
**Revision date:** August 2022