

Being Good Digital Citizens

We believe that it is vitally important that the school and parent/caregivers work together as a team to inform and teach the children how to be good digital citizens who are able to use the devices and internet appropriately. Unfortunately we are not always going to be able to protect the children from all inappropriate/unpleasant content that can be found and so providing them with the tools on how to manage it is essential. The program that we run at the school includes:

- A Cyber Safety program is run at the beginning of each year that focuses on many different aspects from the impact of their digital footprint to how to use the device and internet appropriately and what to do should they be faced with cyber bullying. We also look at the Appropriate Usage Agreement to reinforce those expectations that all students have agreed to follow. We also discuss what constitutes an E-Breach and the possible consequences that may occur. The teachers will also use scenarios to reinforce decision making processes and choices with cyber bullying and safety. The teachers then regularly have 'teaching moments' where they are able to reinforce what has been taught extensively at the beginning of the year. They also regularly remind the students about appropriate behaviour when using the devices.
- We have a Cyber Safety Week in Term One where there is a week of activities that the students engage with to learn about how to be safe.
- Incorporated into that is an annual Cyber Safety presentation for all Yr 5 and 6 students as they are the most active with social media and communication. It is run for all years every second year. There is also an annual parent information session to assist parents in keeping informed and how to help your child to have conversations about these topics and what to do when confronted with cyber bullying.
- At times we may have an incursion with a group such as Constable Care to perform on the topic of cyber safety.

Having conversations with your child/ren about these topics is another important aspect to help demystify them and to be able to give them strategies when they are confronted with cyber bullying or sexting. The website set up by the eSafety Commissioner - www.esafety.gov.au has a lot of good information about how to have these conversations as well as to provide parents with up-to-date information.

Please don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher or the school to discuss this further.