eLearning Policy

Rationale

Mount Evelyn Primary School is committed to developing a safe environment where students act respectfully and positively towards each other in acceptable and non-threatening ways.

Young people have fully embraced the use of information and communication technologies to maintain contact with friends and to make new ones. They send emails, create their own websites, post personal news in blogs, send text messages and images via cell phones, message each other through IMs (instant messages), chat in chat rooms, post to discussion boards, and seek out new friends in teen community sites. While most interactions are positive, there are increasing reports of these technologies being used to harass and intimidate others. This has become known as cyber bullying.

Mount Evelyn Primary School recognises the need for students to be safe and responsible users of digital technology. We believe that explicitly teaching students about safe and responsible online behaviours is essential, and is best taught in partnership with parents and guardians. We request that parents and guardians work with us and encourage this behaviour at home.

DEFINITION: Cyber Bullying: A repeated or sustained pattern of intentional cyber attacks that cause distress and are directed against a specific student or group. Cyber bulling can also be a multi faceted, multi step, complex campaign of humiliation or hostility that causes distress and is directed against a specific student or group.

Cyber Attack: A single or one off act of aggression, denigration or nastiness against a specific student via technology that includes cyber threats, cyber insults, or cyber humiliation. - www.stopcyberbullying.org

Aim

We provide an exemplary learning and teaching program that facilitates:
- Achievement of academic, social, emotional and physical potential;
- A learning environment where students are highly engaged and motivated;
- Inclusive, innovative and challenging curriculum; and
- Curriculum design which caters for individual learning needs.

Our learning environment:
- Equips students with skills and knowledge to cope successfully beyond primary school in an ever-changing world;
- Provides equal opportunities and values diversity;
- Develops knowledge and values; and
- Is positive, safe, supportive & cooperative.

Implementation

At Mount Evelyn Primary School we:

- support the rights of all members of the school community to engage in and promote a safe, inclusive and supportive learning environment
- educate our students to be safe and responsible users of digital technologies
- raise our students' awareness of issues such as online privacy and intellectual property, including copyright
- supervise students when using digital technologies for educational purposes
- provide a filtered internet service but acknowledge that full protection from inappropriate content can never be guaranteed
- respond to issues or incidents that have the potential to impact on the wellbeing of our students
- know that some online activities are illegal and as such we are required to report this to the police
- support parents/guardians to understand the importance of safe and responsible use of digital technologies, the potential issues that surround their use and strategies that they can implement at home to support their child
- expect all families to discuss and sign the school's eLearning and Internet User Agreement and Parent Permission Form
- record all incidents in GradeXpert, the school's student management system

Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed every three years as part of the school's review cycle.

This policy was last ratified by School Council on November 16th 2017

References and Appendices

Appendix A: Student Engagement and Wellbeing Policy and Processes

Mount Evelyn PS Internet User Agreement and Parent Permission Form.

Key Links connected with this policy are:

https://www.**esmart**schools.org.au/

www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/bullystoppers/Pages/**esmart**.aspx

https://bullyingnoway.gov.au/