

# INTERNET USAGE

## POLICY

### **Rationale:**

- Plenty Parklands Primary School recognises that student learning will change as new technologies alter the way in which information may be accessed, communicated and transferred through access to online services. The Internet provides students with unprecedented opportunities to obtain information, engage in discussion, and liaise with individuals, organisation and groups world wide so as to increase skills, knowledge and abilities. Plenty Parklands Primary School also recognises that electronic information research skills are now required as essential knowledge for our students, and to enable them to contribute as informed citizens in the future. In responding to these changes the school actively supports access by students to the widest variety of information resources together with the development, by staff, of appropriate skills to analyse and evaluate such resources. Plenty Parklands Primary School believes that the benefits to students from being able to access and retrieve information from these resources and the opportunities this provides for collaboration, exceed the disadvantages. However, access is a privilege and not a right. Access entails responsibility.

### **Aims:**

- To improve student learning outcomes by increasing access to worldwide information.
- To develop skills in order to discriminate between appropriate and inappropriate Internet usage.

### **Implementation:**

- Establish an eSmart culture which is in keeping with the values of the school and the expectations outlined in the Digital Technologies Acceptable Use Agreement.
- Our school actively supports access by students to the widest variety of information resources available, accompanied by the development of the skills necessary to filter, analyse, interpret and evaluate information encountered.
- All students and staff at our school will have censorship filtered Internet and email access. Such access is a privilege that infers responsibility, and not simply a right to be expected.
- An ICT Coordinator(s) will be appointed, who will liaise with staff and the technical support technicians to manage all email access, the school Facebook page, maintenance of the school's website and filters, and all issues related to Internet access by students.
- The school undertakes to ensure that information published on the Internet by students or the school is of a high standard, and meets legal requirements and standards of general practice within the community in relation to copyright, safety and decency.
- Students' email access will be through a class mailbox under teacher supervision.
- All email accounts will be password protected and users will be responsible for clearing their mailboxes regularly.
- Guidelines on access rights will be defined for different user levels.
- All students shall be responsible for notifying their teacher of any inappropriate material so that access can be blocked.
- All staff shall be responsible for notifying the coordinator of any inappropriate material so that access can be blocked.
- Consequences of publishing, accessing or failing to notify the coordinator of inappropriate material shall include the removal of access rights.
- Parent consent is required for all students in order to publish work, photos or videos on the Internet.
- Privacy of students, parents, staff and other users must be recognised and respected at all times. When identifying students, only the student's first name will be used.
- Teachers shall be responsible for making sure all work is screened for accuracy, appropriateness, grammar and spelling prior to publishing on the Internet including the school website or in the newsletter.

This policy will be reviewed in line with new legislation and to reflect new regulations and best practice.

**Ratified by School Council in May 2016**