

1. Rationale:

Greenvale Primary School recognises that technology is essential for learning but must be used responsibly to ensure student safety and wellbeing. Cyberbullying, which includes online harassment, intimidation, and any other harmful behaviour, is strictly prohibited. This policy provides clear guidelines to foster a culture of respectful digital technology use while addressing cyber safety and responsible online behaviour.

2. Aims:

This policy aims to:

- Promote a secure online environment that values respect and accountability.
- Make cyber safety and responsible technology use a shared commitment among students, staff, and parents.
- Develop students' digital citizenship skills, encouraging safe, ethical, and effective online behaviours.
- Ensure clear procedures for addressing incidents of cyberbullying and other inappropriate uses of technology.

3. Implementation:

Our school community—comprising parents, teachers, students, and other members—will be informed about the different forms of cyberbullying and its serious legal and emotional consequences.

The school will adopt the following approach to cyber bullying:

3.1 Primary Prevention:

- Provide staff with professional development on bullying, cyberbullying, and effective prevention strategies.
- Train teachers in cyber safety and offer awareness programs to parents. Cyber safety will be integrated into the Digital Technology curriculum for students.
- Educate the entire school community on the impact and consequences of cyberbullying, along with strategies to prevent it.
- All school technology will be protected by firewalls, passwords, and monitoring software. School and personal devices will be used under adult supervision, and students will be guided on secure online practices.
- The school will ensure that students (Prep to Year 6) do not have access to applications to communicate with individuals outside the school in online environments whilst on-site.
- Incorporate programs promoting resilience, inclusiveness, assertiveness, and conflict resolution within the curriculum. Assertiveness and bystander training will empower students to report and challenge cyberbullying effectively.
- At the beginning of each year, teachers will review the school's cyberbullying policy with students, based on the school's **Acceptable Use Agreement**.
- The **Acceptable Use Agreement** must be signed and returned by students and parents.
- All school technology will be protected with passwords, and monitoring systems will track student activity. Firewalls will be maintained to prevent unauthorised external access.
- Cyber safety lessons will utilise resources from the Office of the Children's eSafety Commissioner.
- No student information, photos, or work will be shared publicly without prior consent, adhering to privacy and data protection policies.

3.2 Intervention:

- All cases of suspected or reported cyberbullying will be investigated promptly, involving interviews with the bully, victim, and bystanders. External agencies, including the police, may assist in cases involving outside offenders.
- Students will be encouraged to report incidents, and staff will respond appropriately, following the school's **Student Code of Conduct**. All incidents will be documented on Compass.
- Parents will be notified if their child is involved, whether as a perpetrator or victim.
- Consequences for cyberbullying may include, restricted use of school and personal devices, temporary suspension of access to the school's network, completion of a 'School Values Notice', or suspension, expulsion, or involvement of law enforcement where necessary.
- Both victims and perpetrators, along with their families, will have access to counselling and support services.

3.3 Post Violation:

After the resolution of incidents, follow-up actions will be implemented to support all involved parties. Strategies may include:

- Ongoing monitoring of the students' behaviour, including network usage.
- Assignment of a key staff member to each student involved for continued support.
- Regular meetings to review progress and management strategies.
- Continuous communication with parents to keep them informed.
- Referral to external counselling services if required.
- Reinforcement of positive behaviours and conflict resolution skills.

4. Evaluation:

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's ongoing policy and process review cycle.

References and Related Documents:

- www.esmartschools.org.au
- eSmart® Smart. Schools framework
- The Alannah and Madeline Foundation
- Greenvale Primary School's Acceptable Use Contract
- Greenvale Primary School Student Engagement and Inclusion Policy
- Office of the Children's eSafety Commissioner - <https://esafety.gov.au/>

Policy Review and Approval:

Policy last reviewed	October 2024
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	October 2027 (every 3 years)