eSmart Policy

Ararat North Primary School uses the Internet and online resources as a learning tool to improve student learning outcomes by increasing access to worldwide information. The school embraces the benefits of technology and is committed to reducing students’ exposure to cyberrisks (such as cyberbullying, online sexual predation, sexting, identity theft and fraud) when using the Internet, mobile phones and other electronic devices. This policy should be read in conjunction with the following associated policies and agreements:

- Cybersafety Policy
- Social Media Policy
- esmart Acceptable Use Policy
- Child safety Policy
- Values Policy

PURPOSE
The aim of the policy is to:

- Establish an eSmart culture which is in keeping with the values of the school and the expectations outlined in the related policies, which includes actions and consequences for inappropriate behaviour.
- Educate Ararat North students to be smart, safe, responsible and ethical users of digital technologies.
- Recognise that explicitly teaching students about safe and responsible online behaviour is essential in the lives of students and is best taught in partnership between home and school.
- Achieve and maintain accreditation as an eSmart school by meeting all criteria as outlined in the eSmart System Tools.
IMPLEMENTATION

1. Ararat North Primary School staff are trained in the philosophies of the eSmart program and are provided with the information necessary for Cybersafety education.
2. All Ararat North students will undertake a Cybersafe program and will be required with their parents to sign and return all related agreements (as mentioned above) before they will be permitted to use any information and communications technology (ICT) at school.
3. The school community will be provided with Cybersafety information on a regular basis through information sessions and updates through the newsletter. A link to cybersafety sites will be available and regularly updated on the school website.
4. Safe and responsible online behaviour is explicitly taught at our school and parents/carers are requested to reinforce this behaviour at home.
5. Ararat North Primary School staff will raise student awareness of issues such as online privacy and intellectual property including copyright, and that some online activities are illegal and will be reported to police.
6. Ararat North Primary School will supervise students when using digital technologies for educational purposes and provide a filtered internet service whilst acknowledging that full protection from inappropriate content can never be guaranteed.
7. Mobile phones and other personal electronic devices may only be brought to school with prior permission of the Principal. Parents and students must comply with the conditions of use as outlined in the ICT Acceptable Use Policy, which prohibits students from accessing mobile phones and other personal electronic devices within the school grounds without permission.
8. Ararat North Primary School will respond to issues or incidents that have the potential to impact on the wellbeing of our students.
9. All incidents of Cyberbullying must be referred to the classroom teacher or Principal for investigation and any action taken will be in line with the above policies.
10. Parents will be notified and expected to meet with school staff if students are involved in any incidents of cyberbullying as outlined in the Cybersafety and Social Media Policies.
11. Students are advised to report an incident to their teacher immediately if:
   ● They have experienced an incident of Cyberbullying.
   ● They feel the welfare of other students at the school is being threatened.
   ● They come across sites which are not suitable for our school.
   ● Someone writes something they don’t like, makes them or their friends feel uncomfortable or asks them to provide private information.
   ● They accidentally do something which is against the rules and responsibilities they have agreed to.
12. A link to enable students and parents to report cyber safety breaches will be available on the student portal.
13. Any student who does not follow the rules of the eSmart Agreements and associated policies, will lose their ICT privileges for a length of time as deemed appropriate by the classroom teacher and Principal. They will also be required to complete additional Cyber Safety lessons before their privileges are returned.

14. The eSmart Agreement also applies during school excursions, camps and extracurricula activities.

All breaches of this policy must be referred to the classroom teacher or Principal. Incidents will be investigated and recorded. The Cybersafety Policy, Social Media Policy, esmart Acceptable Use Policy, Child safety Policy and Values Policy will determine actions taken for breaches of this policy. Any student who does not follow the rules of the esmart acceptable use agreement will lose their computer privileges for a length of time as decided appropriate by the classroom teacher and Principal.

Parents will be notified and expected to meet with school staff if students are involved in any incidents of bullying/cyberbullying.

This policy ratified by School Council Date: November 2016 and reviewed in 2018