



THORNTON PUBLIC SCHOOL

INTERNET ACCESS POLICY

Aims of Using the Internet at Thornton Public School

This policy addresses the safe management and effective use of Thornton Public School's Internet connections.

This policy needs to be used in conjunction with the:

- Department of School Education's Computers in Schools Policy
- Child Protection Policy
- School's Policies on Anti-Racism, Anti-Discrimination and Discipline

The use of the Internet in this school will:

- Enhance student's learning opportunities and outcomes in all Key Learning Areas
- Assist students and staff to develop the information and communication skills necessary to use the computer and Internet effectively and appropriately
- Reflect community values

Strategies

This policy addresses the following:

1. Developing Information and Community Capabilities
 - Students will be taught not to copy and publish any material from the Internet without first editing and acknowledging all references and sources.
 - All supervising teachers will ensure students are utilising the Information Skills Process to conduct searches upon the Internet.
2. The safety and privacy of students, staff and other Internet users:
 - This school will not provide identifying data such as full name, address or other information that describes the personal situation or location of students, staff or community members.
 - Written permission from parents or guardians, staff and community members will be obtained via the General Permission Note so the students may access the internet and have work published on the internet.
 - Students, staff and teachers will refrain from using the full name of student in any published works (unless special permission is obtained from parents or guardians).
 - Students are warned about providing personal information about themselves or others across the Internet through school or home accounts.
 - It is the responsibility of all users to ensure that all passwords remain confidential and are known only to their rightful owners.

Code of Behaviour

By students accepting the conditions as offered in the portal they are agreeing to codes of behaviour.

- Students will not give our personal information about themselves or other students such as addresses, telephone numbers, parent's work and home address or the name and location of the school.
- Students and teachers will inform their supervising teacher and the Principal immediately if any material is found which makes them feel uncomfortable or is inappropriate.
- Socially unacceptable material will not be downloaded from the Internet or sent via E-mail.
- Breaches of the Code of Behaviour will result in loss of access to the Internet.

Management of Internet Access

The role of the Computer Coordinator has been negotiated and training opportunities provided.

- Students who access the Internet for E-mail will be taught 'netiquette' and be made aware of legal and ethical implications of inappropriate behaviour.
- The Department uses a variety of strategies to restrict access to inappropriate material and handle situations where inappropriate materials are found.

Security

- Teachers need to be made aware of the Departments site blocking and other filtering and monitoring devices.

Legal Requirements and Copyright

Any material accessed from the Internet should be acknowledged.

All current copyright provisions should be adhered to.

Review and Revision

This policy will be reviewed as necessary, in line with the school's ongoing and planning and reporting process, by the school's Technology Committee and endorsed by the school staff and School Council.