

Baxter PS Internet use & Cyber-bullying Policy

It is the policy of Baxter Primary School to prohibit harassment, intimidation, and bullying by any means, including but not limited to electronic, written, oral or physical acts, either direct or indirect, when such intentional electronic, oral, written or physical acts physically harm, substantially interfere with a student's education, threaten the overall educational environment and/or substantially disrupt the operation of school.

This includes, but is not limited to, harassment, intimidation, and bullying based upon race, colour, religion, ancestry, national origin, economic status, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, pregnancy, marital status, physical appearance, or mental, physical, or sensory disability.

This prohibition shall apply to all school employees, volunteers, parents/guardians, and students, including conduct between students, between adults, and between adults and students.

Cyber Safety

Baxter Primary School takes the issues of internet associated risks to students, particularly cyber-bullying very seriously. In order for the school to carry out its responsibility of providing all students with a safe environment in which to learn, grow and develop the school will promote safe internet habits and also seek to enlist the support and co-operation of parents/caregivers in the Baxter school community.

Advice for parents/caregivers....

- Set appropriate guidelines for internet use and discuss them with your children.
- Keep the computer in a public area of the home, such as the living room rather than your child's bedroom.
- Have family talks about the internet and encourage your child to let you know if they come across anything disturbing.
- Set boundaries for computer use i.e. set a time limit on usage, ask your children to turn their mobile phones off at night.
- Contact the school if your child is being harassed/bullied by another student at Baxter Primary School via the cyber world.
- Keep in touch with what young people are doing online.
- **Report**—Most cyber-bullying behaviour-harassment, threats, invasion of privacy, stalking are violations of a web site or Internet service provider's "terms of service." You can file a complaint with the service and that could lead to the suspension or termination of the cyber-bully's (or his or her parents') Internet access. You can also contact NETALERT on 1800 880 176, which provides free technical assistance and support.

Alternatively log on to the following website www.cybersmart.gov.au for more ideas on how to protect children online.

Instructions for students—presented by class teachers and ICT staff -

- If something appears on your screen that disturbs you, tell a friend, a parent, a teacher or contact Netaalert on 1800 880 176 for advice on what to do.
- Keep all personal information to yourself (including photos, your name, the name of your school, the name of your family members, your phone number...).
- Block people who you don't know.
- Be careful when downloading free games or files as people can trick you into clicking on a link that sends you to an unsafe zone or makes your computer download a virus.
- Don't give out your username or password to anyone including your friends—keep this to yourself!!
- Only give out your mobile phone number to people you know and trust, i.e. friends and family.
- If you get any upsetting or disturbing text messages tell your parents or a teacher.
- Save all evidence i.e. conversations on msn as this can be used by the school when dealing with bullying or can be given to police as evidence.

Refs:

www.cybersmart.gov.au

www.education.vic.gov.au/management/elearningsupportservices/www/classroom/default.htm

www.thinkuknow.org.au

Ratified: 19th September 2017

Review: September 2018