eLearning Code of Cooperation

Dear Parents

eLearning and technology is necessary to prepare your children to live and learn in a digital world. Watsonia North Primary School believes in quality education and providing a range of opportunities for every student to develop the knowledge, skills and learning strategies they need to engage in lifelong learning in the 21st Century.

Please read over the following information and complete the eLearning Code of Cooperation to ensure your child has this opportunity.

What is eLearning?

eLearning refers to the effective integration of a range of technologies across all areas of schooling to support student learning. These technologies include rich, interactive, online resources, such as email and the Internet.

What influence does eLearning have on our children?

eLearning creates engaging learning opportunities which act as a catalyst for authentic, meaningful learning experiences. As society changes, so does the expectations of what is required for the ‘Future Learner’. Our Future Learners are:

- Profoundly impacted by technology in most aspects of their lives.
- Problem solvers and educational risk takers.
- Critical and reflective thinkers.
- Discriminating users of information.
- Independent, self-directed learners – who value learning and understand the learning process.
- Engaged in authentic learning experiences.
- Involved in learning – engaged and focused.
- Aware of belonging to a global community where the citizens of the world are their co-learners.

What are the benefits of eLearning, including Internet, Intranet and email?

The power of the Internet and email lies in its ability to create global communities. Students can make connections and become global learners. eLearning can support students in effective use of the Internet and email to:

- Collect, analyse and organise information.
- Communicate ideas and information.
- Work with others and in teams.
- Solve problems.
- Allows students to investigate, search and discuss.
- Allowing students to accept more responsibility for their learning.

WATSONIA NORTH PRIMARY SCHOOL BELIEVES IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT YOUR CHILD HAS ACCESS TO THE POTENTIAL OF THE INTERNET. YOUR CHILD WILL BE SUPERVISED WHEN ACCESSING THE INTERNET.

Students will be specially educated in Cyber Safety and ethical issues, enabling them to deal with the massive resources available via the internet. It is important that families are also aware of and actively involved in discussion about these issues with their children.

OUR INTERNET PROVIDER, NETSPACE, HAS A SPECIAL FILTER IN PLACE FOR SCHOOLS. THIS FILTER DOES NOT ALLOW ACCESS TO SPECIFIC INAPPROPRIATE SITES AND DOES NOT ALLOW ACCESS TO SITES WHICH HAVE OFFENSIVE WORDS OR WHICH ENCOURAGE ILLEGAL ACTIONS.
SOME GUIDELINES FOR PARENTS AT HOME

Whilst we have taken steps at Watsonia North to enhance student learning through use of the internet, and have a number of safety measures in place to filter out inappropriate sites, your Internet Service Provider at home will not afford the same level of protection. By taking responsibility for your children’s online computer use, parents can greatly minimise the potential risks of being online. Make it a family rule to:

- Never give out identifying information, home address, school name, or telephone number, in a public message such as chat or bulletin boards, and be sure you are dealing with someone that both you and your child know and trust before giving it out via email. Think carefully before revealing any personal information such as age, marital status, or financial information.

- Get to know the services your child uses. If you don’t know how to log on, get your child to show you. Find out what types of information it offers and whether there are ways for parents to block out objectionable material.

- Never allow a child to arrange a face-to-face meeting with another computer user without parental permission. If a meeting is arranged, make the first one in a public spot, and be sure to accompany your child.

- Never respond to messages or bulletin board items that are suggestive, obscene, belligerent, threatening, or make you feel uncomfortable. Encourage your children to tell you if they encounter such messages. If you or your child receives a message that is harassing, of a sexual nature, or threatening, forward a copy of the message to your service provider and ask for their assistance.

- Remember that people online may not be who they seem. Because you can’t see or even hear the person, it would be easy for someone to misrepresent him or herself. Thus, someone indicating that "she" is a "12-year-old girl" could, in reality, be a 40-year-old man.

- Remember that everything you read online may not be true. Any offer that’s "too good to be true" probably is. Be very careful about any offers that involve you coming to a meeting or having someone visit your house.

- Set reasonable rules and guidelines for computer use by your children. Discuss these rules and post them near the computer as a reminder. Remember to monitor their compliance with these rules, especially when it comes to the amount of time your children spend on the computer. A child’s excessive use of online services or bulletin boards, especially late at night, may be a clue that there is a potential problem. Remember that personal computers and online services should not be used as electronic babysitters.

- Ensure your virus software is up to date as the internet is a prime source for computer viruses.

- Occasionally check the ‘History’ section of your internet browser as it will have a record of the sites your child is accessing.

Be sure to make this a family activity. Consider keeping the computer in a family room rather than the child’s bedroom. Get to know their ‘online friends’ just as you get to know all of their other friends.

Rachel Janis
ICT Coordinator
Please note that this consent form must be completed annually for each child

- I will notify the teacher immediately if I have a technical problem or if I come across any information that makes me feel uncomfortable.
- My behaviour when using the internet, intranet and email will be responsible and appropriate.
- I will always have my work checked by a teacher before it is published on the web.
- When using the internet, I will access information only from sites which are relevant to my work and which have been specified by the teacher.
- When using email, I must have my teacher’s permission.
- I will not reveal personal information such as my surname, address, telephone number, photograph, parents’ work address/telephone number, the name and location of my school, or personal details of another person without my teacher’s permission.
- I will respect the privacy of others and never read their email without their permission.
- I will never use the internet to arrange a meeting with someone.
- I will be a good online citizen and will abide by the above guidelines.

Student:
I have discussed these rules with my parents/guardians and agree to follow them. I understand that breaking them will result in the loss of my right to use the computers for a period of time set by the teacher.

Student’s Name: ................................................................. Room No: ..............

Student’s Signature: .......................................................... (if age appropriate)

Please note that no student names are used to identify any photograph, video or work published on our website

Parent/Guardian:

(Please tick all statements)

☐ ☐ I have discussed this Code of Behaviour with my child.

☐ ☐ I consent to my child using the internet and email at school.

☐ ☐ I consent to my child’s work being published on the internet with teacher supervision.

☐ ☐ I consent to my child’s photograph/video being published on the internet with teacher supervision.

☐ ☐ I consent to my child being in a group photograph/video being published on the internet with teacher supervision (a group is defined as two or more children).

☐ ☐ I consent to my child’s first name being published on the internet when relevant.

Parent/Guardian’s Name ..........................................................

Parent/Guardian’s Signature .............................................. Date ......................

Please return by tomorrow