

Cyber Safety

The Hazard – Cyber Safety

Cyber safety refers to the safe and responsible use of information and communication technologies. This includes privacy and information protection, respectful communication and knowing how to get help to deal with online issues.

Common cyber safety issues include:

Cyber bullying is the ongoing abuse of power to threaten or harm another person through the use of technology (Refer to our Bullying Prevention and Intervention Policy);

Sexting is the sending or posting of provocative or sexual photos, messages or videos online;

Identity theft is the fraudulent assumption of a person's private information for their personal gain. Students are exposed to these risks as they are often unaware of the safety issues surrounding their digital footprint; and

Predatory behaviour where a student is targeted online by a stranger who attempts to arrange a face to face meeting, in an attempt to engage in inappropriate behaviour.

Cyber safety issues most commonly occur through a student's use of their own technology devices (e.g. smart phone, tablet, laptop, home computer).

Safe use of technology whilst at school is managed through our Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Policy.

St Francis School's Policy

St Francis recognises its duty to students to provide a safe and positive learning environment which includes the responsible use of information and communication technologies.

It is our policy that:

Cyber safety be managed through a 'whole of school community' approach involving students, staff and parents/carers;

Cyber safety and cyber bullying prevention strategies be implemented within the school on a continuous basis with a focus on teaching age appropriate skills and strategies to empower staff, students and parents/carers to recognise cyber safety issues and respond appropriately;

Cyber bullying response strategies be tailored to the circumstances of each incident; and

Our bullying prevention, intervention and cyber safety strategies are reviewed on an annual basis against best practice.



St Francis Primary School Nathalia

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ABN: 54 412 713 465



St Francis will provide a child safe environment where all children have the right to be treated with respect and will be protected from harm.

Cyber Safety Strategies

St Francis recognises that the implementation of whole of school cyber safety strategies is the most effective way of minimising risks related to our students engaging in online activity.

The following initiatives form part of our overall cyber safety strategy within the school:

Establishment of a 'Cyber Safety Team' and appointment of two primary 'Cyber Safety Contact Persons' (refer below for details);

A structured curriculum and peer group support system, that provides age appropriate information and skills relating to cyber safety (including cyber bullying) to students over the course of the academic year;

Education, training and professional development of staff in cyber safety strategies;

Regular provision of information to parents/carers to raise awareness of cyber safety as a school community issue. This will equip them to recognise signs of cyber safety risks, as well as to provide them with clear paths for raising any concerns they may have relating to cyber safety and/or cyber bullying directly with the school;

Promotion of a supportive environment that encourages the development of positive relationships and communication between staff, students and parents/carers;

Promotion of responsible bystander behaviour amongst students, staff and parents/carers (this may occur where a bystander observes inappropriate online behaviour either being perpetrated by, or targeted at, a student);

Reporting of cyber safety incidents is encouraged and made easy through the establishment of multiple reporting channels (as specified below);

Regular risk assessments of cyber safety within the school are undertaken by surveying students to identify cyber safety issues;

Records of reported cyber safety incidents are maintained and analysed, in order to identify systemic issues and to implement targeted prevention strategies where appropriate;

Cyber safety strategies are included in students' school diaries;

Cyber safety posters are displayed strategically within the school; and

Promotion of student cyber safety awareness by participating in relevant cyber safety related events.



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Our Cyber Safety Team & Contact Person

St Francis has established a Cyber Safety Team whose role it is to:

Review the school's cyber safe policy and relevant cyber safety initiatives (such as student education, staff professional development, parent/carer information) on at least an annual basis to ensure that they are effective in minimising cyber safety risks within the school;

Maintain up to date knowledge of cyber safety best practice for schools;

Maintain up to date knowledge of available cyber safety resources that may be utilised by the school and/or integrated in the school's cyber safety program;

Review and analyse data obtained from school surveys that deal with cyber safety issues;

Conduct regular risk assessments with respect to cyber safety issues within the school;

Make recommendations to the Principal with respect to improvements to the school's cyber safety policies and procedures; and

Appoint a member who shall be the primary point of contact for cyber safety related issues that may arise during the year.

Current members of the Cyber Safety Team are as follows:

Name	Position
Matt Knight	Principal
Veronica Williams	Deputy Principal
Jerrold Davison	ICT Leader

The Cyber Safety Team meets at least quarterly or more frequently if desired.

ICT Coordinator, Principal and Senior Teachers have been appointed as the 'Cyber Safety Primary Contacts'. They are put forward to the school community as the first contact point for students, staff and parents if a cyber safety issue arises.

Cyber Safety Primary Contacts are encouraged to attend relevant external cyber safety training programs.



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Workers' Responsibility

All workers are responsible to:

Model appropriate online behaviour at all times;

Refer any cyber safety related issues to the Cyber Safety Primary Contacts; and

Acknowledge the right of parents to speak with school authorities if they believe their child is being bullied.

Signage

Cyber safety posters are displayed strategically around the school.

Implementation

This policy is implemented through a combination of:

Staff training;

Student and parent/carer education and information;

Effective incident reporting procedures;

Effective management of cyber safety incidents when reported;

The creation of a 'no bullying' culture within the school community;

Effective record keeping procedures; and

Initiation of corrective actions where necessary.

Discipline for Breach of Policy

Where a staff member breaches this policy St Francis will take disciplinary action, including in the case of serious breaches, summary dismissal.

Related Policies

Bullying Prevention and Intervention Policy

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Policy



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Useful Resources

Esmart
e-Safety
Stay Smart Online
ThinkUKnow
Netsafe (NZ)
Safer Internet Day

REVIEW

St Francis Primary School is committed to the continuous improvement of our Child Protection Program. In accordance with our Continuous Improvement and Review Policy this Policy is regularly reviewed for overall effectiveness and to ensure compliance with all child protection related laws, regulations and standards.

Date Created – 2017
Date Reviewed – 2020
Next Review - 2023