Rationale

Westgarth Primary School believes the teaching of cybersafety and responsible online behaviour are essential in the lives of students and are best taught in partnership between home and school.

21st century students spend increasing amounts of time online, learning and collaborating. To be safe online and to gain the greatest benefit from the opportunities provided through an online environment, students need to do the right thing by themselves and others online, particularly when no one is watching.

Safe and responsible behaviour is explicitly taught at our school and parents/carers are requested to reinforce this behaviour at home.

Westgarth Primary School uses the Ultranet, internet and digital technologies as teaching and learning tools. We see the internet and digital technologies as valuable resources, but acknowledge they must be used responsibly.

All students will be asked to agree to use the Ultranet, internet and mobile technologies responsibly at school. Parents/carers should be aware that the nature of the internet is such that full protection from inappropriate content can never be guaranteed.

Aims

At Westgarth Primary School we aim to:

• have policies in place that outline the values of the school and expected behaviours when students use digital technology and the internet
• provide a filtered internet service
• provide supervision and direction in online activities and when using digital technologies for learning
• support students in developing digital literacy skills
• have a cybersafety program which is reinforced regularly across the school
• use mobile technologies for educational purposes (e.g. podcasts or photos from excursions)
• provide support to parents/carers through information evenings and through the document attached to this agreement for parents to keep at home
• work with students to outline and reinforce the expected behaviours in the Ultranet*.

* The Ultranet is a password protected online learning space for all Victorian Government school students. In this space your child will be able to use tools to communicate and collaborate with other students and be able to access learning activities both at school and at home. The Ultranet will be active at Westgarth Primary School from October 2010.
Actions

- All students will be educated about cyber bullying each year.
- All students will be required to sign an Acceptable Use Agreement for Ultranet, Internet & Digital Technologies each year.
- Parents/Carers will be provided with information regarding the Acceptable Use Agreement at the beginning of each year as well as educational information regarding digital technology throughout the year via newsletters, forums and parent information nights.
- Educational material regarding the Ultranet will be delivered to all parents/carers as the introduction of the Ultranet proceeds via newsletters, DEECD pamphlets etc.

Supporting Documents:

- Acceptable Use Agreement for Ultranet, internet and digital technologies:
  - Student Agreement  Appendix 1
  - Family Information  Appendix 2