

SOCIAL MEDIA

GUIDELINES

Aim

To protect students from harassment and exposure to inappropriate comments and content delivered through social media, at school and at home, by other students of Carramar Primary School.

Definition

“Social Networking” refers to sites and other practices where people connect with others directly or indirectly through sites such as; Facebook, Twitter, Myspace, Skype, Facetime, texting, emails etc.

Background

Students are able to communicate with each other outside of school hours using many forms of social media. While the behaviour is not happening at school, or using school resources, it is impacting on the education, well-being and attendance of students.

Inappropriate behaviour involving social media is an act or communication that may cause hurt or harm to themselves or another person.

The guidelines are a response to the increasing number of incidents involving inappropriate social media behaviours that are impacting on the learning environment.

The school, working in partnership with parents, needs to address inappropriate “Social Networking” behaviour that impacts on the learning environment and the well-being of students.

Implementation

- Parents, teachers, students and the school community will be informed of the Social Media Guidelines
- Information on social media behaviour and safety will be included as part of the school curriculum
- Inappropriate use of social media, both in and out of school, that causes harm or distress to another student will be addressed in line with the school’s Bullying Guidelines, ‘Good Standing’ Guidelines, School Wide Positive Behaviour Guidelines and Online Services Agreement.

Interventions

- Parents will be notified of any allegations or incidents of inappropriate use of social media involving other Carramar students.
- Both the perpetrator and victim will be provided with support and counselling.
- Incidents of a serious nature, or ongoing inappropriate behaviour will result in consequences that are in line with the school’s guidelines and could include:
 - Implementation of restorative practice
 - Extended time out during class and or breaks

- In school suspension
- External Suspension
- The loss of “Good Standing” resulting in the exclusion from school activities
- In incidents involving Facebook, Facebook will be advised (**Facebook does not permit persons under the age of 13 to have an account or to use Facebook**).
- Serious incidents will be referred to relevant authorities, e.g. police.

Appendix

- Facebook Statement of Rights and Responsibilities
<http://www.facebook.com/terms/english.php>
- Net Alert: www.netalert.gov.au
- Cyber Quoll: www.cyberquoll.com.au
- Netty’s World: www.nettysworld.com.au
- Cybersmart Kids Online: www.cybersmartkids.com.au
- ThinkUKnow: www.thinkuknow.org.au
- Embrace the Future: www.embracethefuture.org.au
- Cyber Smart: www.cybersmart.gov.au

Link to WA Department of Education: <http://det.wa.edu.au/policies/detcms/policy-planning-and-accountability/policies-framework/guidelines/student-online-guidelines.en?cat-id=3457100>

Evaluation:

These guidelines will be reviewed as part of the school’s three-year review cycle.

