



Casuarina Steiner School ICT Advice to Parents

Please take the time to help your child use ICT safely:

At Casuarina Steiner School we:

- Have a cybersafe and responsible use program across the school and reinforce the values of the school code of conduct and ICT user agreement when students use technology and the internet
- Provide supervision and direction in internet activities for learning
- Use mobile technologies for educational purposes (e.g. photos from excursions)
- Work towards setting tasks that ask your child open questions, so they can't copy and paste all answers from the internet

Casuarina Steiner School believes the teaching of cybersafe and ethical online behaviour is essential in the lives of students and is best taught in partnership between home and school. Today students spend increasing amounts of time online learning and socialising. These online communities need cybercitizens who do the right thing by themselves and others online, particularly when no one is watching. The school recommends that students 13 years of age and under should not be participating in social networking sites e.g. Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter etc.

Safe and ethical behaviour online is explicitly taught at school and support at home is requested. It is important to note that some online activities are illegal and as such will be reported to police. This includes harassment of others and publishing of inappropriate images.

Bridging the gap between home and school:

At school the internet is only used to support teaching and learning. At home, however, it is often used differently. Not only is it a study resource for students, but it is increasingly being used as a social space to meet and chat.

If you have the internet at home, encourage your child to show you what they are doing online. At home we recommend you:

- Find out how your child uses the internet and who else is involved in any online activities
- Have the computer with internet access in a shared place in the house – not your child's bedroom
- Look up cyber bullying websites and get informed so that you can help your child
- Ask questions when your child shows you what they are doing, such as:
 - How does it work and how do you set it up?
 - Who is else is sharing this space or game? (do you know them or did you 'meet' them online?)
 - Can you see any risks or dangers in the activity?
 - What are you doing to protect yourself or your friends from these potential dangers?
 - When would you inform an adult about an incident that has happened online that concerns you? (Discuss why your child might keep it to themselves.)



Statistics show that students will not approach an adult for help because:

- They might get the blame for any incident
- They don't think adults "get" their online stuff
- They might put at risk their own access to technology by either:
 - admitting to a mistake or
 - highlighting a situation that might lead a parent to ban their access

Protecting personal privacy rights and those of other students:

Students like to publish information about themselves and their friends in spaces like Instagram, Facebook and blogs, but in doing so they can make themselves more vulnerable to being approached, groomed or bullied online. The school recommends that these sites are inappropriate to children 13 years and younger. Safe practices such as the following should always be used on online sites:

- Don't use their own name, but develop an online name and avatars
- Don't share personal details including images of themselves or their friends online
- Password protect any spaces or accounts they have
- Don't allow anyone they don't know to join their chat or collaborative space
- Are reminded that any image or comment they put on the internet is now public (anyone can see, change or use it) so no full names should appear in reference to individuals in any image, movie or sound recording
- ALWAYS make the space private so that they can control who sees their space and can communicate with them

Did you know?

Facebook should not be used by children under 13. The Facebook website states:

Facebook requires everyone to be at least 13 years old before they can create an account (in some jurisdictions, this age limit may be higher). Creating an account with false info is a violation of our terms. This includes accounts registered on the behalf of someone under 13.

If your underage child created an account on Facebook, you can show them how to [delete their account](#). If you'd like to report an account belonging to someone under 13, please [fill out this form](#). Note that we'll promptly delete the account of any child under the age of 13 that's reported to us through this form.

Using appropriate language when talking to and working with others online:

Being online can make students feel that they are anonymous and sometimes students may say things online that they would never say to someone's face. The web space or online chat environment that they use in leisure time might also have explicit language and they may feel they have to be part of it. When at school students need to be reminded that their behaviour online must fall in line with the school's ICT user agreement.



Using equipment and resources properly for educational purposes as directed by teachers:

Students may often see the internet as “free” but just looking at a page on the internet incurs a download cost. By just taking care with the equipment, and thinking carefully about printing and downloading from the internet students can save time, money and the environment.

Keeping away from violent, racist or pornographic material:

In school settings, internet service providers set up filters to block out a lot of inappropriate content, but these filters are not always foolproof. **Students**, who deliberately seek out inappropriate content or use technology that bypasses filters, will have their internet access suspended and their parents will be immediately informed.

Following copyright procedures:

All music, information, images and games on the internet are owned by someone. A term called copyright is a legal one and has laws to enforce it. By downloading a freebie you can risk bringing a virus or spyware to the computer or system. These can destroy a computer system or provide hackers with details such as passwords and bank accounts. Remember, if an offer is too good to be true, the chances are it is.

Evaluating and using content on the internet carefully:

Not everything on the internet is true, accurate or unbiased. Particularly for young people, it can be more complex to assess the veracity of online material in which sources, referencing and viewpoint are not explicit. The school is working to teach information literacy skills to enable students to locate, evaluate, and use information effectively in hard-copy texts as well as on the internet. Direct copying and pasting information from the internet is not recommended as it makes it difficult for the student to use their own thoughts and language to express what they have learnt. Any website accessed should be referenced by the web address as well as the date accessed.

Not interfering with or circumvent network security, the data of another user or attempt to log into the network with a user name or password of **another student**.

Computer facilities are for the use of all students so due care should be taken at all times when using these resources. Students are responsible for everything done using their accounts, and everything in their home directories. To this end students need to keep their password secret and not gain access to other students’ login details.

Seeking teacher assistance:

The internet has some flashy and tricky ways to lead users into some websites they never meant to visit. It is easy for us all to get distracted. We want students to ask for help in locating the information they need, and clarifying the task they have been set. Unfocused clicking through websites can lead to inappropriate content.

We also want the whole school community to keep their internet environment as safe as possible so we ask

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INSPIRING THE HEAD, REACHING THE HEART



your child if they see a site they think should be blocked to turn off their screen and let a teacher know.

Open communication between parents, teachers and students is the best way to keep students safe.

If you have any concerns about the school's ICT Student User Agreement, please contact your child's Class Teacher. If you have any concerns about internet safety in general, visit the following websites for information.

www.esafety.gov.au

www.staysmartonline.gov.au