



Northcote College Cybersafety and ICT Responsible Use

Northcote College is committed to providing a digital and online environment that is physically and emotionally safe, inclusive, and free from racism, discrimination, and bullying (Education and Training Act 2020 and Health and Safety at Work Act 2015). We recognise the vital role of digital technology in learning and how it impacts student wellbeing, so we take all reasonably practicable steps to ensure its safe and responsible use. Our strategies aim to prevent digital incidents and maintain student wellbeing and safety both at and outside the school.

We know this is important for us all, so we ask everyone, the staff, students and volunteers working at the school to agree to use the internet and other technologies in a safe and responsible way by following the rules laid out in a Responsible Use Agreement like this one.

If someone cannot agree to act responsibly, or the things that they do mean that other people are being harmed, then we might stop them from using the internet or other technology at school.

Responsible Use Agreement

When using information & communications technologies (ICT) at Northcote College, I will always be a good digital citizen and abide by the Harmful Digital Communications Act 2015.

This means that:

I will be a confident and capable user of ICT.

I know what I do and do not understand about the technologies that I use. I will get help where I need it.

I will use ICT for learning as well as other activities.

I understand that technology can help me to learn. I also know it can also be used to talk to people, to buy and sell things and to have my opinion heard. I know when and where it is okay to do each one.

I will think carefully about whether the information I see online is true.

I know that it is easy to put information online. This means that what I see is not always right. I will always check to make sure information is real before I use it.

I will be able to speak the language of digital technologies.

When people talk online the things they say can be quite different from a conversation they might have if they were sitting next to each other. I know that I must try to understand what people are saying before I react to them. If I am not sure, I can ask them or someone else to explain.

I understand that I may experience problems when I use technology and that I will learn to deal with them. I understand that there will be times when technology may not work as I expected it to, or that people may be mean or unkind to me online. When these things happen, I know that there are ways I can deal with it. I also know there are people I can go to, to get help if I don't know what to

do next.

I will always communicate with others in positive ways when using ICT

I will always talk politely and with respect to people online. I know that it is possible to bully or hurt people with what I say and do on the internet. I will think about the effect that my actions have on other people.

I will be honest and fair in all of my actions using ICT.

I will never do anything online that I know will hurt anyone. I will make sure what I do is not against the law. I will make sure that my actions don't break the rules of the websites that I use. When I am not sure about what I am doing I will ask for help.

I will always respect people's privacy and freedom of speech online.

I understand that some information is private. I will be careful when using full names, birthdays, addresses and photos of other people and of my own. I also know that I will not always agree with what people say online but that does not mean that I can stop them or use it as an excuse to be unkind to them.

I will help others to become better digital citizens.

Being a good digital citizen is something that we all have to work at. If I know that my friends are having problems online, I will try to help them. If I see that someone is being unfairly treated online then I will speak up rather than just watch it happen.

Student Declaration

I understand that these guidelines for responsible use are to be followed when using any technology while at school or while on any school activity.

I am aware that this includes the use of a device that the school does not own.

I understand that if I breach this responsible use agreement, I may lose access to school ICT services including the use of the internet, on school-owned devices or any personally owned device used at school.