WHAREORINO SCHOOL

PROCEDURE 35:   INTERNET SAFETY and CYBER BULLYING PREVENTION

Rationale
To promote and ensure the welfare and safety of students and staff when using the internet, the school must strictly monitor and control student's online activities. This procedure is to be read in conjunction with School Procedure 35: Computer and other Digital Devices Acceptable Use.

Purposes
To provide internet access, so all staff and students can:
1. Become effective and safe users of the internet.
2. Extend their awareness and knowledge of the internet.
3. Become motivated, responsible, independent users of the internet.

General policy on Internet use at school:
Use of the internet facilities at Whareorino School is strictly for educational purposes. This includes personal use and use for professional development of staff.

Guidelines
1. Staff must be trained to access the internet for educational purposes.
2. All staff must sign a Cybersafe Use Agreement before using the internet.
3. Staff can access school and private email accounts.
4. Students must be under adult supervision and directed to appropriate learning sites.
5. When a student is enrolled the parent/caregiver must sign an acceptable usage form before the student can use the internet.
6. The school will ensure that filtering software is provided to assist blocking access to unsuitable sites.

Prevention of Cyber Bullying:
Preventing cyberbullying is a matter of awareness and response: knowing what children are doing and how they are vulnerable, then helping them learn to respond when their well-being is threatened by bullies, trolls, and other dangerous users online.

If a child is expressing anger or anxiety after going online, it might be one of the signs he/she is being cyberbullied.

Cyberbullying is becoming a burning issue both for parents and teachers. While statistics vary from study to study, it's generally true that children are spending more time than ever 'online.' In fact, some students may spend *more* time online than offline during their day, whether at home or school, which means they might be more likely to be bullied through words on a screen than in any other school or social environment.

Teachers, parents and whānau find the best way to help their child or student, is by establishing a 'climate' of trust and communication. It's not enough to be 'willing' to talk with a child or 'hope' that they'll come to you if they experience bullying (of any kind). Ideally, there will be communication patterns established where they aren't just likely to discuss this with you but see you as a resource and support system.

We need to give them a formal definition of cyberbullying. Give them examples, examples they might actually experience using the online activities they're most likely to use. At the very least, be patient and ask a child about the problem in general: what is cyberbullying, does he/she know someone who is being bullied, what children should do if notice acts of bullying. This way you will see how much your child is involved in the situation and which side he/she is on.

School staff can do a big deal to prevent cyberbullying. As a teacher, you can use staff and parent meetings and even send newsletters. Use your school website to create a page and forum, where parents can discuss the problem. You can also engage bullies and victims by giving them mutual tasks, so they can try to see each other from a different perspective. Remember that the ultimate goal is to protect and restore the victim's self-

respect and empower them with a mindset, tools, and strategies to protect themselves online and offline in the future.

Warning Signs a Child is being Cyberbullied or is Cyberbullying Others:

Many of the warning signs that cyberbullying is occurring happen around a child's use of their device. Some of the warning signs that a child may be involved in cyberbullying are:

- Noticeable increases or decreases in device use, including texting.
- A child exhibits emotional responses (laughter, anger, upset) to what is happening on their device.
- A child hides their screen or device when others are near and avoids discussion about what they are doing on their device.
- Social media accounts are shut down or new ones appear.
- A child starts to avoid social situations, even those that were enjoyed in the past.
- A child becomes withdrawn or depressed or loses interest in people and activities.

Computer and Internet Use Agreement – Parents/Caregivers:

I have read this policy and agree/understand that my child is responsible for using school equipment and the internet as outlined.

I have gone over this with my child and explained its importance. My child and I understand that there may be consequences for breaking this agreement.

I understand that my child is not permitted to use the internet unless a teacher or teacher aide is present and that the school will do its best to restrict access to inappropriate material.

Students Name: _____

Parent/Caregiver Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Related Documents
- Procedure 17: Student Behaviour Management
- Procedure 33: H&S Antibullying
- Procedure 34: H&S School Culture
- Procedure 35: Cyber Bullying Prevention Poster
- Board Policy Part D: 1 Responsibilities of the Principal
- Board Policy Part D: 6 Health and Safety

PRINCIPAL
Dated: February 1, 2022