# Beulah Primary School

# Cybersafety Policy

## 1.    CHILD SAFETY STATEMENT

At **Beulah Primary School** we hold the care, safety and wellbeing of children and young people as a central and fundamental responsibility of our school. Our commitment is drawn from our school Vision statement that:

> Our vision is for our students to reach their academic, social, emotional and physical potential. This will occur in a safe and caring school environment where they develop independence, self-discipline, resilience, acceptance of others and senses of community and personal achievement.

Our school has also adopted a Child Safe Statement that articulates our zero tolerance of child abuse.

Beulah Primary School is fully aware of its obligations under the **Child Safe Standards** (Ministerial Order 870 – effective 1 September 2016) to protect students from all forms of child abuse. To this end, all necessary precautions will be taken to ensure that ICT usage does not pose a risk to child safety.

## 2.    CYBERSAFETY RATIONALE

In an endeavour to maintain a safe physical and emotional environment for staff and students, the use of the Information and Communication and Technologies (ICT) needs to be taken into consideration with respect to Cyber safety issues. The internet provides great benefits to teaching and learning programs and for the effective operation of the School. However, the presence of these

learning technologies can also facilitate anti-social, inappropriate or even illegal behaviour and activities. This includes cyberbullying.

BPS is cognisant of the risks to child safety that exist in an online environment and will take all possible precautions to protect students from harm.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Computer and Internet Use Policy

## 3. POLICY

Beulah Primary School will develop and maintain effective cybersafety practices which aim to maximise the benefits of the internet to student learning whilst minimising and managing risks.

These cybersafety practices will aim to not only maintain a cyber-safe school environment, but also address the needs of students and other members of the School community in receiving education about the safe and responsible use of present and developing information and communication technologies.

At the start of each school year, students will revisit the School Cyber safety policy in their year level assemblies and will be required to sign a consent form, together with their parents, agreeing to abide by the rules about the appropriate use of ICT devices and internet use at Beulah Primary School, as set out in the computer and internet use and mobile phone policies.

Students have a responsibility to use all Information and Communication Technologies appropriately. ACCESS IS A PRIVILEGE NOT A RIGHT.

The following are guidelines for acceptable and appropriate online behaviour:

• The School name, motto, crest logo and uniform must not be used in any way that would result in a negative impact for the school and its community. Students must not post photos of either themselves or other students which clearly identify them as members of the Beulah Primary School community and should be aware of the potential repercussions of posting photos taken during any school sanctioned activity.

• Members of the school community also have a responsibility to ensure that all online communications are in keeping with the School's expectations in relation to appropriate and

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respectful interactions with teaching and non-teaching staff. Students will not post inappropriate comments about individual staff members.

• Cyberbullying includes, but is not limited to, the following misuses of technology: harassing, teasing, intimidating, threatening, another person by sending or posting inappropriate and hurtful email messages, instant messages, text messages, phone messages, digital pictures or images, or Web site postings (including blogs and social media).

• Inappropriate use of ICT devices includes:

The forwarding of private emails, messages, pictures, videos or otherwise inappropriately communicating personal or private information belonging to another person; logging on and pretending to be someone else; sending sexually explicit images ('sexting') and intentionally excluding others from an online group. If this occurs either during school time or after school hours, (where we believe its impact will constitute a breach of school policy), a student will be subject to disciplinary action. Students must be aware that in certain circumstances where a crime has been committed, they may also be subjected to a criminal investigation by police over which the school will have no control.

• Students who feel that they have been victims of such misuses of technology should save and store the offending material on their computer, mobile phone or other device. They should then print a copy of the material and immediately report the incident to a teacher. Staff who may have been cyberbullied or threatened online should also immediately report such incidence to the Principal.

• All reports of cyberbullying and other technology misuses will be investigated fully and may result in a notification to the police. School sanctions may include, but are not limited to, the loss of computer privileges, detention and suspension.

• Refer to the Enhancing Online Safety for Children Act (July 2015) https://www.comlaw.gov.au/Details/C2015A00024/Html/Text#_Toc415219250

## 4. Evaluation:

This policy will be reviewed as part of the School's four-year review cycle.

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## 5.    Glossary of Terms Used:

•      Cyberbullying: "is a way of delivering covert psychological bullying. It uses information and communication technologies to support deliberate, repeated and hostile behaviour, by an individual or group that is intended to harm others." Belsey 2007

•      ICT – refers to the term Information and Communication Technologies.

•      Cyber safety refers to the safe and responsible use of the Internet and ICT equipment/devices, including mobile phones.

•      School ICT equipment / devices refers to the School's computer network, internet access facilities, computers and other School ICT equipment/devices as outlined below.

•      ICT equipment/devices used in this document, includes but is not limited to, computers (such as desktops, laptops), storage devices (such as USB and flash memory devices, CDs, iPods, MP3 players), cameras (such as video, digital, webcams), all types of mobile phones, video and audio players/receivers (such as portable CD and DVD players), gaming consoles, and any other similar technologies as they come into use.

Reference – Ministerial Order 870 - Child Safe Standards – effective 1 September, 2016

http://www.vrqa.vic.gov.au/childsafe/Pages/schools.html

**This policy was last ratified by the BPS School Council**                    **July 2018**

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