Doncaster Gardens Primary School
Online Safety Policy

Philosophical Basis:
Doncaster Gardens Primary School has an obligation to maintain a safe physical and emotional environment, and a responsibility to consult with the community. These responsibilities are increasingly being linked to the use of the Internet and Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs), and related Internet safety issues. The use of the Internet and ICT equipment bring great benefits to the teaching learning programs, and the effective operation of the school. However, it is recognised that the presence in the learning environment of these technologies, some provided by the school and some used by staff, students, and families outside the school, can also facilitate anti-social, inappropriate and even illegal materials and activities. The school has the dual responsibility of maximising the benefits of new technologies, whilst minimising the risks. Safe online practices will aim not only to maintain a safe school environment, but also to educate students and other members of the school community about the safe and responsible use of present and developing ICTs. The prevention of cyberbullying is a priority for the school. Cyberbullying consists of covert, psychological bullying, conveyed through the electronic mediums such as cell-phones, web-logs and web-sites, on-line chat rooms, ‘MUD’ rooms (multi-user domains where individuals take on different characters) and Xangas (on-line personal profiles where some adolescents create lists of people they do not like). It is verbal (over the telephone or mobile phone), or written (flaming, threats, racial, sexual or homophobic harassment) using the various mediums available.

Guidelines:
The following issues will be considered:

- The need for ongoing funding for safe Internet practices through inclusion in the school’s annual budget
- Review of the Schools Strategic Plan and Annual Implementation Plan to ensure they make provision for safe Internet practices
- Deployment of staff to appropriate positions in regard to their knowledge of ICTs and safe Internet practices
- Professional learning and training for all staff in safe Internet practices
- Implications for the design and delivery of the curriculum
- Disciplinary responses appropriate to the breaches of Internet safety
- Availability of appropriate pastoral support for victims of online bullying
- Potential employment issues

Implementation:

- The school’s safe Internet practices will be based on the latest information available, including the most recent version of the NetSafe® Kit for Schools (NZ).
- No individual may use the school Internet facilities and school owned/leased ICT devices/equipment in any circumstances unless the appropriate use agreement has been signed and returned to the school. Use agreements also apply to the use of privately owned/leased ICT devices/equipment on the school site, or at/for any school related activity of its location. This includes off site access to the school network from school or privately owned/leased equipment.
- The use agreements will cover all School Councillors, staff, students and any other individuals authorised to make use of the school’s Internet facilities, including preservice teachers, external providers and contractors, and other special visitors to the school.
- The use agreements are also an educative tool and can be used as a resource for the professional learning of staff.
- Use of the internet and the ICT devices/equipment by staff, students and other approved users is to be limited to educational, professional learning and personal usage appropriate in the school environment.
- Signed use agreements will be filed in a secure place, and an appropriate system devised which facilitates confirmation that particular individuals are authorised to make use of the Internet and ICT devices/equipment.
- The school has the right to monitor, access and review all use. This includes personal emails sent and received on the schools’ computers and/or network facilities at all times.
- The school has the right to audit at any time any material on equipment that is owned or leased by the school. The school may also request permission to audit privately owned ICT devices/equipment used on the school site or at any school related activity.
- Issues relating to confidentiality, such as sighting student or staff information, reasons for collecting data and the secure storage of personal details and information (including images) will be subject to the provisions of the Information Privacy Act 2000.

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• The safety of the students is of paramount concern. Any apparent breach of online safety will be taken seriously. The response to individual incidents will follow the procedures set out in the Student Code of Conduct and the Internet Policy and Code of Practice. If illegal material or activities are suspected, the matter may need to be reported to the relevant law enforcement agency.

Evaluation:
• This policy will be reviewed every three years as part of the policy review cycle.