

Cyber Safety Policy

Cyber safety is the safe and responsible use of information and communication technology. It is about keeping information safe and secure, but also about being responsible with that information, being respectful of other people online, and using good 'netiquette' (internet etiquette).

Understanding Cyber safety is all the more important when working with, or caring for, young children as they cannot make their own decisions about what gets published online.

National Quality Standards (NQS)

Quality Area 2: Children's Health and Safety

2.3	Each Child is protected
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2.3.1	Children are adequately supervised at all times
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Quality Area 6: Collaborative Partnership with families and communities

6.1.2	Families have opportunities to be involved in the service and contribute to service decisions
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6.1.3	Current information about the service is available to families
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6.2.1	The expertise of families is recognised and they share in decision making about their child's learning and wellbeing
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Quality Area 7: Leadership and Service Management

7.3.1	Records and information are stored appropriate to ensure confidentiality, are available from the service and are maintained in accordance with legislative requirements,
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Education and Care Services National Regulations

168	Education and care services must have policies and procedures
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181	Confidentiality of records kept by approved provider
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195	Application of Commonwealth Privacy Act 1988
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196	Modifications relating to National Education and Care Services Privacy Commissioner and Staff
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PURPOSE

To create and maintain a cyber safe culture which works in accordance with our Service philosophy and legislative requirements to ensure the cyber safety of children, educators and families of the Service. Our computer software program and Internet access facilities, brings prodigious benefits to the teaching and learning programs and constructs our partnership with families.

SCOPE

This policy applies to children, families, staff, management and visitors of the Service.

Terminology

ICT	Information and Communication Technologies
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Cyber safety	Safe and Responsible use of the internet and equipment/device, including mobile phones.
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Netiquette	The correct or acceptable way of using the internet
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IMPLEMENTATION

Cyber Safety encompasses technologies such as the Internet, and electronic communication devices including mobile phones and other wireless technology. With increasing sophisticated and affordable communication technologies, there is a need for children and young people to be methodically informed of both the benefits and risks of using these new technologies and provides safeguards and awareness for users to enable them to control their online experiences and the appropriate use of all technologies.

Our Service has demanding cyber safety practices and education programs in place, which are inclusive of appropriate use agreements for Educators and Families.

Our educational software program provides families with up to date information about their child's development in way of daily reports, observations, photos, portfolios and email communications and phone apps.

The cyber safety agreement includes information about the software program, the services' obligations and responsibilities and the nature of possible consequences associated with cyber safety and bullying breaches. Once the agreement is signed, families and educators will have access to the educational software program.

EDUCATIONAL SOFTWARE PROGRAM

Our Service uses "Childcarers" software for communication with families and staff which is a password protected private program for children, educators and families to share observations, photos, videos, daily reports and portfolios. Families are able to view their child/children's learning and development and contribute general comments relating to their child or comment on an observation or daily report.

Educators are alerted via email and on their dashboard when a family member has added a comment.

Likewise, families are alerted via email when a relevant educator has posted about their child.

Access to a child's information & development is only be granted by their primary guardians. No personal information is shared with any third party.

Confidentiality and privacy:

- The principles of confidentiality and privacy extend to accessing or inadvertently viewing information about personnel, or children and their families, which is stored on the Service's network or any device
- Privacy laws are such that educators or other employees should seek advice from Service management regarding matters such as the collection and/or display/publication of images (such as personal images of children or adults), as well as text (such as children's personal writing)
- DEpt of Education guidelines should be followed regarding issues of privacy, safety and copyright associated with the online publication of children's personal details or work.
- All material submitted for publication on the Service Internet/Intranet site should be appropriate to the Service's learning environment
- Material can be posted only by those given the authority to do so by the Service management
- The Service management should be consulted regarding links to appropriate websites being placed on the Service's Internet/Intranet (or browser homepages) to provide quick access to particular sites

Management will ensure:

- The service works with a professional IT support provider as well as protective software to ensure the latest security systems are in place to ensure best practice. These can block access to unsuitable web sites, newsgroups and chat rooms. However, none of these tools is foolproof - they cannot be a substitute for active parental involvement in a child's use of the internet.

A Nominated Supervisor/ Certified Supervisor /Educators will:

- Ensure to use Service policies and procedures for staying safe online.
- Keep passwords confidential and not share it with anyone.
- Never request a family member’s password or personal details via email
- Report anyone who is acting suspiciously, or requesting information, which they feel uncomfortable about.

Families:

- When sharing anything using technologies such as computers, mobile devices, email and the internet it is important you and everyone else invited to your account understands about netiquette and staying safe online. Even if you were confident about Cyber safety it would be a good idea to check if all those invited to your account have the required knowledge.
- When it comes to your own children, it is your choice what you share outside of the service. Remember though that young children cannot make their own decisions about what gets published online so you have a responsibility to make sure whatever is shared is in your children's best interests.
- Sometimes other children in the Service may feature in the same photos, videos and observations as your children. In these cases, never duplicate or upload them to the internet/social networking sites or share them with anyone other than family members without those children's parents' permission.

Source

- Australian Children’s Education & Care Quality Authority. (2014).
- Guide to the Education and Care Services National Law and the Education and Care Services National Regulations 2015,
- ECA Code of Ethics
- <https://esafety.gov.au>
- Guide to the National Quality Standard.

Review

Policy Reviewed	Modifications	Next Review Date
March 2017	Reviewed policy, no changes made. Some formatting changes only	March 2018