Advice for State Schools on Acceptable Use of ICT Facilities and Devices

Student personal mobile device access

The departmental position is that mass access to the network by students' wholly owned personal mobile devices could compromise the integrity of the ICT network. Principals however can determine that for educational purposes a student can have access to the ICT network. This connection is provided only if the mobile device meets the department's security requirements (see iSecurity site for details) at a minimum installing, running and updating anti-virus software. Schools wanting students to connect to the department's ICT network are required to develop procedures to ensure that such provisions are assessed against the department's security requirements (where necessary undertaking a risk assessment) and that students and their parents/guardians are provided with the necessary education and assistance to be able to meet these departmental requirements.

The procedures are to include:

- providing advice to all students and their parents on appropriate security requirements (see iSecurity site for details)
- advising teacher/supervisor as soon as any breach of security is suspected
- the right to restrict/remove student access to the intranet, internet, email or other network facilities if they do not adhere to the school's network usage and access policy, guideline or statement
- ensuring that students are aware of occupational health and safety issues when using computers and other learning devices.

Schools that are implementing or have implemented the BYOx process need to also ensure steps have been taken to provide a safe and effective learning environment for students while meeting the department's security requirements. This includes advising parents/guardians that the devices provided allows access to their home and other out of school internet services and that such services may not include any internet filtering.

Student access to the department's ICT facilities and devices

The Smart Classrooms strategy underpins the growth and improvement in innovative programs and resources in schools for teachers and students. Essential tools for providing these innovative educational programs are the intranet, internet, email and network services (such as printers, display units and interactive whiteboards) that are available through the department's/school's ICT network. These technologies are vital for the contemporary educational program provided in schools.

At all times students, while using these ICT facilities and devices, will be required to act in line with the requirements of the *Code of School Behaviour* and any specific rules of their school. In addition students and their parents should:

- understand the responsibility and behaviour requirements (as outlined by the school) that come with accessing the school's ICT network facilities
- ensure they have the skills to report and discontinue access to harmful information if presented via the internet or email
- be aware that:
  - access to ICT facilities and devices provides valuable learning experiences for students and supports the school's teaching and learning programs
  - ICT facilities and devices should be used appropriately as outlined in the *Code of School Behaviour*
  - students who use a school's ICT facilities and devices in a manner that is not appropriate may be subject to disciplinary action by the school, which could include restricting network access
  - despite internal departmental controls to manage content on the internet, illegal, dangerous or offensive information may be accessed or accidentally displayed

- teachers will always exercise their duty of care, but avoiding or reducing access to harmful information also requires responsible use by the student.

School specific ICT responsible use procedure

The *Information Communication and Technology (ICT) Procedure* provides direction to school principals around formulating a school procedure on access to the department's/school's ICT facilities and devices for parents and/or students to understand and acknowledge. This may take the form of a procedure, policy, statement or guideline and may require consultation with the school community. Acknowledging through signing seeks to support an understanding of what is lawful, ethical and safe behaviour when using or accessing the department's network and facilities by students and their parents. Principals may seek sign-off either on enrolment of students or alternatively at the start of each school year.

The following dot points are to assist schools with the formulation of their own procedure. Further guidance on drafting this section can be sought from the *Use of ICT Facilities and Devices Guideline*.

Purpose statement

- Information and communication technology (ICT), including access to and use of the internet and email, are essential tools for schools in the provision of innovative educational programs.
- Schools are constantly exploring new and innovative ways to incorporate safe and secure information and communication technology (ICT) use into the educational program.
- School students, only with the approval of the principal, may be permitted limited connection of personally owned mobile devices to the department's information and communication technology (ICT) network, where this benefits the student's educational program.

Authorisation and controls

The principal reserves the right to restrict student access to the school's ICT facilities and devices if access and usage requirements are not met or are breached. However restricted access will not disrupt the provision of the student's educational program. For example, a student with restricted school network access may be allocated a stand-alone computer to continue their educational program activities.

The Department of Education and Training monitors access to and usage of their ICT network. For example, email monitoring will occur to identify inappropriate use, protect system security and maintain system performance in determining compliance with state and departmental policy.

The department may conduct security audits and scans, and restrict or deny access to the department's ICT network by any personal mobile device, if there is any suspicion that the integrity of the network might be at risk.

Responsibilities for using the school's ICT facilities and devices

- Students are expected to demonstrate safe, lawful and ethical behaviour when using the school's ICT network as outlined in the *Code of School Behaviour*.
- Students are to be aware of occupational health and safety
- issues when using computers and other learning devices.
- Parents/guardians are also responsible for ensuring students understand the school's ICT access and usage requirements, including the acceptable and unacceptable behaviour requirements.
- Parents/guardians are responsible for appropriate internet use by students outside the school environment when using a school owned or provided mobile device.
- The school will educate students regarding cyber bullying, safe internet and email practices, and health and safety regarding the physical use of ICT devices. Students have a responsibility to behave in line with these safe practices.
- Use of the school's ICT network is secured with a user name and password. The password must be difficult enough so as not to be guessed by other users and is to be kept private by the student and not divulged to other individuals (e.g. a student should not share their username and password with fellow students).

- Students cannot use another student or staff member's username or password to access the school network, including not trespassing in another person's files, home drive, email or accessing unauthorised network drives or systems.
- Additionally, students should not divulge personal information (e.g. name, parent's name, address, phone numbers), via the internet or email, to unknown entities or for reasons other than to fulfil the educational program requirements of the school.
- Students need to understand that copying of software, information, graphics or other data files may violate copyright laws without warning and be subject to prosecution from agencies to enforce such copyrights.

Responsibilities for using a personal mobile device

- Prior to any personal mobile device being used approval is sought from the school to ensure it reflects the department's security requirements.
- Students are responsible for the security, integrity, insurance and maintenance of their personal mobile devices and their private network accounts.
- All files are to be scanned using appropriate virus software before being downloaded to the department's ICT network.
- Follow any advice provided on best security requirements e.g. password protection (see iSecurity site for details).
- Students and parents are to employ caution with the use of personal mobile devices particularly as these devices can store significant numbers of files some of which may be unacceptable at school e.g. games and 'exe' files. An 'exe' file ends with the extension '.exe' otherwise known as an *executable* file. When they are selected they can install programs which may start unwanted processes.
- Any inappropriate material or unlicensed software must be removed from personal mobile devices before bringing the devices to school and such material is not to be shared with other students.
- Unacceptable use will lead to the mobile device being confiscated by school employees, with its collection/return to occur at the end of the school day where the mobile device is not required for further investigation.

Acceptable/appropriate use/behaviour by a student

It is acceptable for students while at school to:

- use mobile devices for
  - assigned class work and assignments set by teachers
  - developing appropriate literacy, communication and information skills
  - authoring text, artwork, audio and visual material for publication on the intranet or internet for educational purposes as supervised and approved by the school
  - conducting general research for school activities and projects
  - communicating or collaborating with other students, teachers, parents or experts in relation to school work
  - accessing online references such as dictionaries, encyclopaedias, etc.
  - researching and learning through the department's eLearning environment
- be courteous, considerate and respectful of others when using a mobile device
- switch off and place out of sight the mobile device during classes, where these devices are not being used in a teacher directed activity to enhance learning
- use personal mobile device for private use before or after school, or during recess and lunch breaks
- seek teacher's approval where they wish to use a mobile device under special circumstances.

Unacceptable/inappropriate use/behaviour by a student

It is unacceptable for students while at school to:

- use the mobile device in an unlawful manner
- download, distribute or publish offensive messages or pictures

- use of obscene, inflammatory, racist, discriminatory or derogatory language
- use language and/or threats of violence that may amount to bullying and/or harassment, or even stalking
- insult, harass or attack others or use obscene or abusive language
- deliberately waste printing and internet resources
- damage computers, printers or network equipment
- commit plagiarism or violate copyright laws
- ignore teacher directions for the use of social media, online email and internet chat
- send chain letters or spam email (junk mail)
- knowingly download viruses or any other programs capable of breaching the department's networks security
- use in-phone cameras anywhere a normal camera would be considered inappropriate, such as in change rooms or toilets
- invade someone's privacy by recording personal conversations or daily activities and/or the further distribution (e.g. forwarding, texting, uploading, Bluetooth use etc.) of such material
- use the mobile phone (including those with Bluetooth functionality) to cheat during exams or assessments
- take into or use mobile devices at exams or during class assessment unless expressly permitted by school employees.

Sign-off

The implementation of the sign-off process for school students and their parents/guardians should occur on enrolment and every year after through an annual collection, whichever suits the school's normal operations. The following is a suggested format for the signature block to be placed at the end of the procedure:

Student:

I understand that the school's information and communication technology (ICT) facilities and devices provide me with access to a range of essential learning tools, including access to the internet. I understand that the internet can connect me to useful information stored on computers around the world.

While I have access to the school's ICT facilities and devices: I will use it only for educational purposes; I will not undertake or look for anything that is illegal, dangerous or offensive; and I will not reveal my password or allow anyone else to use my school account.

Specifically in relation to internet usage, should any offensive pictures or information appear on my screen I will close the window and immediately inform my teacher quietly, or tell my parents/guardians if I am at home.

If I receive any inappropriate emails at school I will tell my teacher. If I receive any at home I will tell my parents/guardians.

When using email or the internet I will not:

- reveal names, home addresses or phone numbers – mine or that of any other person
- use the school's ICT facilities and devices (including the internet) to annoy or offend anyone else.

I understand that my online behaviours are capable of impacting on the good order and management of the school whether I am using the school's ICT facilities and devices inside or outside of school hours.

I understand that if the school decides I have broken the rules for using its ICT facilities and devices, appropriate action may be taken as per the school's *Behaviour Management Policy*, which may include loss of access to the network (including the internet) for a period of time.

I have read and understood this procedure/policy/statement/guideline and the *Code of School Behaviour*.

I agree to abide by the above rules / the procedure/policy/statement/guideline.

_____ (Student's name)

_____ (Student's signature) _____ (Date)

Parent or guardian:

I understand that the school provides my child with access to the school's information and communication technology (ICT) facilities and devices (including the internet) for valuable learning experiences. In regards to internet access, I understand that this will give my child access to information on computers from around the world; that the school cannot control what is on those computers; and that a small part of that information can be illegal, dangerous or offensive.

I accept that, while teachers will always exercise their duty of care, protection against exposure to harmful information should depend upon responsible use by students/my child. Additionally, I will ensure that my child understands and adheres to the school's appropriate behaviour requirements and will not engage in inappropriate use of the school's ICT facilities and devices. Furthermore I will advise the school if any inappropriate material is received by my student/child that may have come from the school or from other students.

I understand that the school does not accept liability for any loss or damage suffered to personal mobile devices as a result of using the department's facilities and devices. Further, no liability will be accepted by the school in the event of loss, theft or damage to any device unless it can be established that the loss, theft or damage resulted from the school's/department's negligence.

I believe _____ (name of student) understands this responsibility, and I hereby give my permission for him/her to access and use the school's ICT facilities and devices (including the internet) under the school rules. I understand where inappropriate online behaviours negatively affect the good order and management of the school, the school may commence disciplinary actions in line with this user agreement or the *Behaviour Management Policy*. This may include loss of access and usage of the school's ICT facilities and devices for some time.

I have read and understood this procedure/policy/statement/guideline and the *Code of School Behaviour*.

I agree to abide by the above rules / the procedure/policy/statement/guideline.

_____ (Parent/Guardian's name)

_____ (Parent/Guardian's signature) _____ (Date)

The Department of Education and Training through its *Information Management (IM) Procedure* is collecting your personal information in accordance with the *Education General Provisions Act 2006* in order to ensure:

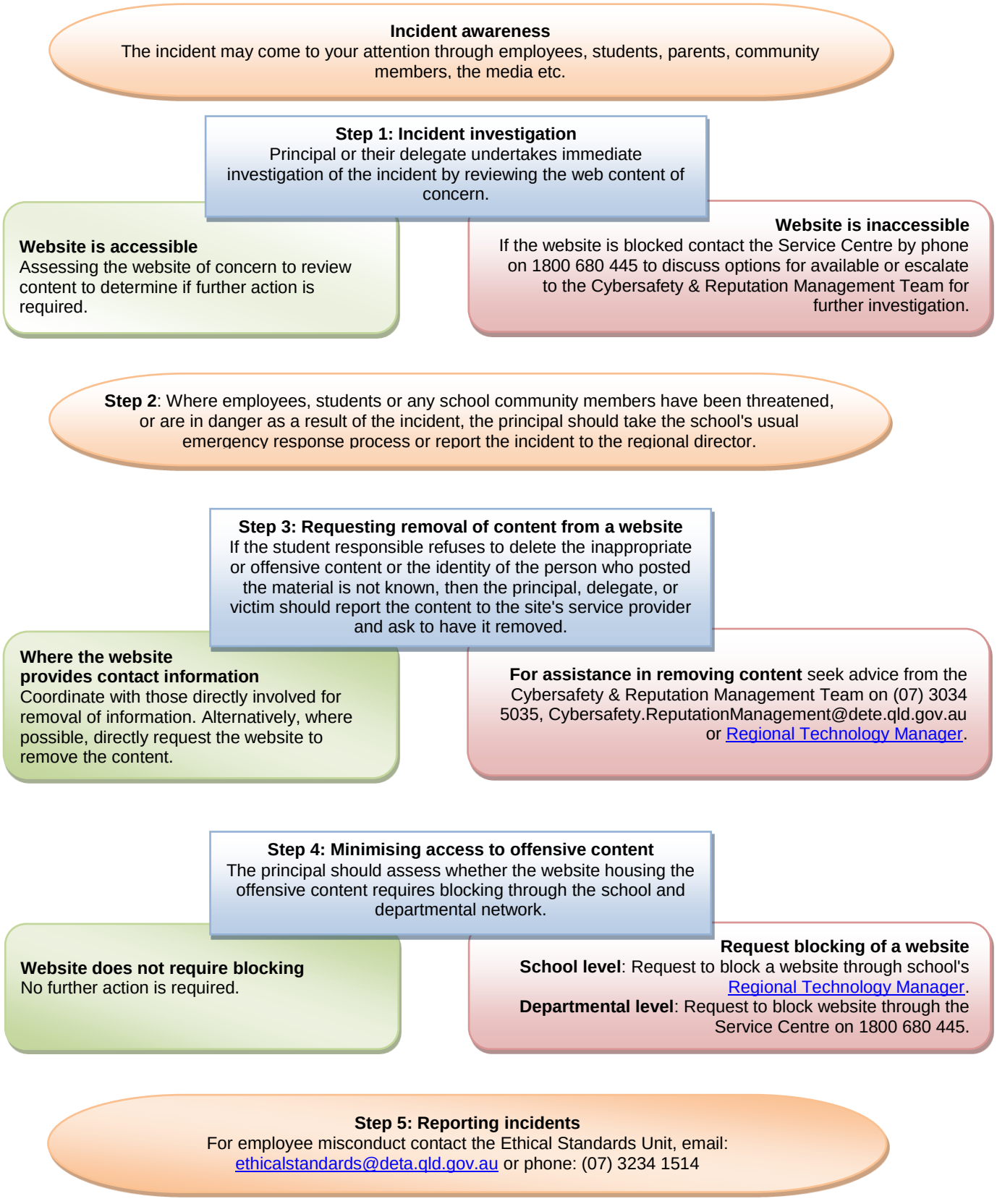
- appropriate usage of the school network
- appropriate usage of personal mobile devices within the school network.

The information will only be accessed by authorised school employees to ensure compliance with its *Information Management (IM) Procedure*. Personal information collected on this form may also be disclosed to third parties where authorised or required by law. Your information will be stored securely. If you wish to access or correct any of the personal information on this form or discuss how it has been dealt with, please contact your child's school. If you have a concern or complaint about the way your personal information has been collected, used, stored or disclosed, please also contact your child's school.

Note: The Australian Mobile Telecommunications Association (http://www.amta.org.au/) has published materials which may be of use to schools including a template which can assist in creating an acceptable use policy.

Web filtering - Removing online content

The following information is provided as a guide to state schools when seeking to remove and report the uploading of inappropriate images/ footage to websites, particularly where school employees and/or students are involved, or if the school is in some way associated.



For further information about the removal of inappropriate images/footage on websites, contact:
Cybersafety & Reputation Management Team
Learning Technologies
Phone: (07) 3034 5035
Email: Cybersafety.ReputationManagement@dete.qld.gov.au

Assistance on removing content from the internet can also be sought from your Regional Technology Manager.

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