2.16 Accessing the Internet

Policy Statement

We acknowledge that children may access the internet for educational purposes during the operational hours of the program. Therefore, we take a proactive approach to educating children on safe and secure internet usage. We aim to establish guidelines on access to the internet with the aim of protecting children from risk of harm.

Definitions

Internet: Refers to the world wide web of computer systems that facilitates the transmission and exchange of data. Information search engines and web browsers include, but are not limited to, Google, Firefox and Internet Explorer.

Social Networking Media: Refers to any online tools or functions that allow people to communicate or share information via the internet. This includes, but is not limited to, applications such as Facebook, YouTube and Twitter.

Mobile device: Refers to devices that have non-Wi-Fi internet access such as iPads, tablets, iPods, and mobile phones.

Procedures

Service Responsibilities
We will:
- ❖ Ensure that all service computers and mobile devices with internet access are fitted with adequate security and filtering software to prevent access to inappropriate information and web sites.
- ❖ Ensure all educators are provided with training and support in managing instances of inappropriate use of the internet by children.
- ❖ In collaboration with the children, the Service will:
- ❖ Develop and implement guidelines for accessing the computers and their internet usage whilst in attendance at the service.
- ❖ Make available to children and families relevant information about protecting children online and may include such material in service newsletters or other correspondence to children and families.
- ❖ Have clear guidelines on the use of children's personal belongings, including mobile devices.

Educator Responsibilities
Educators will ensure their own practices role model appropriate safety measures when researching information, either individually or with the children and will ensure children are only able to access the internet at the service through authorised computers.
Educators will encourage children's safe use of the internet through strategies including, but not limited to:
- ❖ Monitoring what children are looking at/for when accessing the internet;
- ❖ Monitoring who children are chatting to/interacting with while accessing the internet;
- ❖ Regular conversations with children about using the internet safely.

We acknowledge the "user agreement" that your child has with Tewantin State School

References
Education and Care Services National Law Act, 2010 and Regulations 2011
Family and Child Commission Act 2014
Child Protection Act 1999 and Regulations 2000
Privacy Act 1988 and Regulations 2013
'My Time, Our Place' Framework for School Age Care in Australia Duty of Care Relevant Policies:
Safety and Wellbeing of Children, Protecting Children from Harm, Anti-Bullying, Children's Property
and Belongings, Cyber-bullying, Educational Program Planning, Provision of Resources and
Equipment, Communication with Families, Information Technology.