

## Guidelines for Parent Involvement in Cyber Safety

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### OVERVIEW

The rise of technology has brought about significant benefits for children and their education, but it has also presented new challenges for parents in terms of keeping their children safe online. With the increasing prevalence of cyberbullying, online predators, and inappropriate content, it is essential for parents to take an active role in their children's cyber safety and online well-being. In this policy, we outline the expectations and guidelines for parent involvement in cyber safety, online, and digital wellness.

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### POLICY STATEMENT

We believe that parents have a critical role to play in ensuring their children's safety and well-being in the online world. Therefore, we expect all parents of our students to take an active interest in their child's cyber safety, online behaviour, and digital well-being.

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# Expectations and Guidelines for Parental Involvement in Cyber Safety

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## 1. Communication

Parents must communicate openly and regularly with their children about their online activities, behaviours, and potential risks. They should establish trust and create a safe space for their children to discuss any concerns or issues related to online safety.

## 2. Education

Parents should educate themselves and their children about online safety, including the risks associated with social media, online bullying, and online predators. They should also teach their children how to protect their personal information and how to report any suspicious activity.

## 3. Setting rules and boundaries

Parents should establish clear rules and boundaries around their children's online behaviour, such as limiting screen time, setting appropriate age restrictions, and prohibiting certain types of content. They should ensure that their children understand and follow these rules.

## 4. Monitoring

Parents should monitor their children's online activities, including the websites they visit, the apps they use, and the content they access. They can use parental control software to restrict access to inappropriate content and track their children's online behaviours.

## 5. Role modelling

Parents should lead by example and demonstrate responsible online behaviour themselves. They should avoid sharing personal information online, using inappropriate language or behaviour, and posting anything that could be harmful or offensive.

## 6. Support

Parents should support their children in developing positive online habits and help them navigate any challenges they may face. They should be available to listen, provide guidance, and seek help if necessary.

## 7. Collaboration

Parents should collaborate with the school, teachers, and other parents to promote online safety and digital well-being. They should participate in workshops, forums, and other initiatives to increase awareness and understanding.

## 8. Strategies Policy

Parents should implement the following strategies to promote cyber safety and digital well-being for their children:

- a. Establish clear guidelines and boundaries for internet use.
- b. Encourage children to communicate openly about their online activities.
- c. Use parental control software to monitor and limit access to inappropriate content.
- d. Educate children about online safety and appropriate behaviour.

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e. Model responsible online behaviour themselves.

**9. Consequences Policy**

Failure to comply with the guidelines outlined in this policy may result in revocation of online access privileges.

**10. Resources Policy**

The school will provide parents with access to resources for further support or information about cyber safety and digital wellness. These resources may include websites, hotlines, or workshops.

**11. Legal and Ethical Considerations Policy**

Parents will be informed about the legal and ethical considerations involved in monitoring their children's online activities and personal information. This includes compliance with privacy laws and regulations, as well as respecting children's autonomy and privacy.

**12. Training Policy**

The school will provide training for parents on how to effectively monitor their children's online activities, use parental control software, and communicate with their children about online safety.

**13. Review and Update Policy**

The school will periodically review and update this policy to ensure that it remains up-to-date and relevant to the changing landscape of technology and online safety. Any changes to the policy should be communicated to parents in a timely and transparent manner.

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