FRANKSTON SPECIAL DEVELOPMENTAL SCHOOL
SOCIAL NETWORK POLICY

Rationale:
Frankston SDS values an environment where students can participate in social networking sites such as Facebook and Twitter effectively, responsibly and safely.

Aims:
For the School Community to become familiar, competent and responsible users when using mainstream social networking sites whilst learning the skills to maintain their safety, security and privacy at all times.

Implementation:
Social network sites provide powerful opportunities for individuals to connect with friends and strangers throughout the world, but at the same time, can expose the unwary to hazards and dangers that users must proactively avoid. Consequently, all members of the school community must be skilled and informed about the advantages, disadvantages, opportunities and potential dangers associated with social networks.

- Cyber safety will form an essential element of our school's curriculum
- Students with the ability to engage with social networking sites will learn how enter sites, create personal identities, communicate with selective others, protect their privacy, maintain security, and how to use proper and appropriate internet protocols when communicating.
- Students will be informed about the potential dangers of online social networking, and gain experiences in identifying and eliminating potentially dangerous behaviour.
- Students will be made aware of cyber-bullying, its impact on others, how to avoid and respond to cyber-bullying, and the legal implications and consequences of cyber-bullying.
- Students found to be using the school's technologies or internet services inappropriately for any purpose (including unauthorised or unreasonable use of social networking sites) can expect to be dealt with in a manner consistent with our Student Code of Conduct.
- Staff members will not engage in social networks with students other than as part of the educational program. They will not *'friend'* students on personal social networks and will adhere to the staff code of conduct regarding social networking.
- Staff members will need their peers permission to post photos of them online (including Facebook accounts)
- Frankston SDS will provide social networking information sessions for parents and families.

Evaluation:
This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle.

| This policy was last ratified by School Council in.... | N/A 2013 | |

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