***TAB A***

***Newsletter article:***

***Safe, responsible and respectful use of digital technology.***

Our children and young people have grown up with digital technology and it is woven into their lives. During COVID -19 many young people are using digital technology more often to learn and to socialise.

Supporting children and young people to use technology in a safe, respectful and responsible manner allows for more active online learning that can increase student engagement and participation. It also supports access to a broader range of content and learning resources that can supplement students’ learning experiences.

Being safe online is a shared responsibility for students, teachers, parents, carers and the broader community.

It is important that families can communicate with their children about the how to use digital technology in safe, responsible and respectful ways.

Here are some key reminders for children and young people of how to stay safe online:

* Protect personal information, including name, address, school, email address, telephone number, pictures and other personal details.
* Never share user names or passwords and only use your own
* Ask a teacher or other responsible adult for help if anyone online asks for personal information, wants to meet or offers money or gifts.
* Let a teacher or other responsible adult know immediately if anything online that is suspicious, harmful or inappropriate.
* Never hack, disable or bypass any hardware or software security, including any virus protection, spam and filter

Further information can be found at:

* Digital Citizenship website: <https://www.digitalcitizenship.nsw.edu.au/>
* Esafety Commissioner: <https://www.esafety.gov.au/>

The department’s [Student use of digital devices and online service policy](https://policies.education.nsw.gov.au/policy-library/policies/pd-2020-0471) supports schools to maximise the benefits and minimise the risks of digital environments, and prepare students for life beyond school.