

Secure Internet browsing and email for students

Dear Parent or Caregiver,

The NSW Department of Education and Training is committed to providing a secure e-Learning environment to enrich learning opportunities for all students in NSW public schools. In 2006 your child/children will be provided with access to secure Internet browsing and email.

Email is a method of communicating on the Internet by sending and receiving written messages. Your child's/children's email account is protected by software to block out inappropriate messages and attachments. Your child/children will be provided with an individual username and password to access filtered Internet browsing and email at school. Their user name and password will ensure that they receive Internet filtering and that no one else can access their email.

All students who use the Internet at school are taught that they must follow the code of conduct outlined in each school's policy on *Student Access to the Internet*. This policy includes the action that may be taken by a school if students do not follow this code of conduct. This policy also follows specific privacy guidelines which make it clear that personal information and information that would mean they could be identified is not to be revealed and that personal account details remain confidential. Ring the school if you would like a full copy of this policy.

Students will be able to access their personal email from computers at home and other locations through private Internet service providers. All Internet browsing at home will be directed through your own Internet service provider. We recommend that you install filtering software at home and be aware of filtering software at other locations.

As long as your child/children are enrolled at a public school or TAFE college in NSW they will have access to secure Internet browsing and email. The NSW Department of Education and Training respects your right as a parent to refuse your child permission to have access to this facility. If you do not agree to your child having access to this Internet facility, you will need to provide notification in writing in English to the school within 2 school weeks of receiving this letter.

Some parents may have already received a permission letter requesting consent for their child/children to receive an e-learning account as a result of their schools participation in the Web Services Project. If you have previously refused to provide permission for your child/children to have an e-learning account your child/children will not be provided with access to secure Internet browsing and email. Parents can contact the school at any time and request for an e-learning account to be provided to their child/children. This request should be forwarded to the school in writing in English.

Further information about secure Internet browsing and email is available on the NSW Department of Education and Training website at www.det.nsw.edu.au or by telephoning or emailing the school.

Yours sincerely

(Principal)

ENGLISH