

Moonah Primary School (TAS)

Implementing eSmart strengthened our community



'Ready for all things'

Moonah Primary School is an inner-city school based in the outer suburbs of Hobart. Our school has a clear view of Kunanyiku, Mount Wellington and is surrounded by a variety of local businesses. In 2017, our whole school community developed our school values; Respect, Kindness, Learning and Safety. Our motto 'Ready for all things', describes our community as we are a diverse, resilient and supportive community which provides our students with the opportunity to learn and achieve success.



Moonah Primary School believes the teaching of cyber safety and responsible online behaviour is essential in the lives of students and is best taught in partnership between home and school. In 2020, we decided to review how our students use digital technology and developed an eSmart policy discussing procedures and processes.

Off the starting blocks

One of our initial actions in the implementation of the eSmart policy was to collaboratively develop a whole school eSmart Scope and Sequence designed to reflect the eSmart Framework and the Personal and Social Capabilities of the Australian Curriculum. It incorporates a range of curriculum areas that align with the eSmart framework. The curriculum links are embedded into what students typically learn through cross domain activities and are opportunities for addressing other domains and actions within the eSmart framework.



Wellbeing always a priority

At Moonah Primary we are constantly discussing the welfare of our students and staff. We strive to be proactive at addressing issues that may impact on students' learning and mental health. After establishing the need to improve students' knowledge and understanding of how to be safe online discussions occurred with staff and senior staff to determine what was already in place at Moonah and how could we build on this.

Creating the links

At the time, the school had already implemented new school values which include being safe and respectful, however this was not directly or explicitly linked to the use of digital technologies. We had established a social skills program where the whole school focuses on a particular value and ways we can implement these values into our day to day lives, however this lacked the digital component. The grade teams worked collaboratively to establish learning goals and create an eSmart scope and sequence. This led to the School Association supporting our decision to further develop our bullying policy and improve our already established ICT agreement to improve processes around negative online behaviour within our school community.



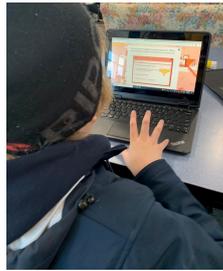
After implementing our eSmart scope and sequence, students have had access to explicit learning experiences that are tailored to their area of need. Anecdotal evidence reveals that students are more comfortable and likely to discuss negative and inappropriate use of technology at home and at school with a trusted adult after spending time at school learning about appropriate use of digital technology.

Through these additional learning experiences at school, students are becoming more aware of their rights as a digital technology user and are taking on greater responsibilities in ensuring their use of technology is ethical and responsible. Their knowledge and skills are transferred into the home setting with parents becoming more aware of the critical role they play in helping their children manage potential online issues.

"students are becoming more aware of their rights as a digital technology user"

Supporting parents

At Moonah Primary, we recognise the importance of educating our parents to potential dangers of online activity and provide them with useful hints and supportive videos. By implementing the steps in the eSmart framework, parents have become more aware of our role in educating their children about cyber safety and the positive outcomes of using digital technology. Parents are now requesting information and support when dealing with online issues at home and are aware of our work in ensuring safe digital technology use at school and home.



The implementation of our eSmart scope and sequence in conjunction with our social skills program has enhanced our school's ability to create an open culture where teachers can openly work with family members and students to assist in developing a safe and supportive online community.

Teachers and students share their learning of safe use of digital technology on our digital platforms such as Class Dojo, SeeSaw and Facebook. With our ongoing social skills program coinciding with our eSmart framework, families are now more inclined to seek support and guidance when dealing with their child's behaviour online. It is crucial families are also educated in the appropriate use of digital technology and their ability to read signals to support their child.

"ensuring safe digital technology use at school and home"

The final word

Watching our school community grow to become an open and supportive community has been a rewarding experience for us all at Moonah Primary School. Knowing that our families are using the same language at home as at school, builds strength within our school community and provides a positive peace of mind to our students when dealing with negative and upsetting online situations, which all supports wellbeing.

School profile

Moonah Primary School is a public school, located in Derwent Park, a outer suburb of Hobart, Tasmania.

The school has an enrolment of 270 students .

They have been a registered eSmart School since 2018.