ONLINE SAFETY POLICY

Outcome statement

New Plymouth Girls' High School is committed to creating a safe online learning environment, and helping our students grow into capable digital citizens.

The Board is aware that preparing and supporting our students to use digital technology and online environments effectively and safely is an important part of their preparation for participating and contributing in our digital society. To this end, the Board recognises that its obligations under the National Administration Guidelines (NAG 5) extend to use of the internet and related technologies.

Scope

New Plymouth Girls' High School seeks to foster a culture of successful digital citizenship in our students, staff, and wider community. We encourage everyone to take responsibility for themselves and others within their online environments and use of digital technology.

In preparing our students to actively participate in our world, their ability to contribute as confident and competent digital citizens is key. Being given the chance to experience both the opportunities and the challenges presented by technology, is an important part of learning the skills, knowledge, and values needed. It is essential that this is learnt in a safe, secure, and nurturing environment, where clear, effective guidance can be sought.

Expectations and limitations

1. The Board considers the benefits and risks associated with technology use when making any decisions related to the purchase or use of technology.

2. The school will consult with parents and the wider school community, as to how it intends to use digital technologies and online environments, and where possible, explain how it benefits the teaching and learning process.

3. New Plymouth Girls' High School will develop and maintain procedures around the safe and responsible use of the digital technologies, school's network and systems, and the internet.

4. These online safety procedures will recognise the value of the technology and encourage its use in teaching and learning contexts, whilst minimising and managing the challenges that may be experienced by students, teachers and the wider school community.

5. The online safety procedures will aim to not only maintain a safer school environment, but also aim to address the needs of students and other members of the school community for opportunities to receive and participate in education and support around the safe and responsible use of digital technologies and online environments.

Procedures/supporting documentation

Staff Guidelines for the Safe Use of Digital Technology
Student IT User Agreement

Monitoring

The Principal will ensure that:
- All students have been made aware of the responsibilities and expectations held of them and what each means in practice. in relation to the student IT agreement.
- All staff have been made aware of the responsibilities and expectations held of them and what each means in practice, in relation to the staff guidelines for the safe use of digital technology.
- Staff and students have the opportunity to review and discuss the online safety procedures on an annual basis.
- Staff participate in professional development in relation to online safety on an annual basis.

Legislative compliance

Education Act 1989
Harmful Digital Communications Act 2015
Privacy Act 2020

Reviewed: July 2023	Next review: July 2024