**Blogging Policy**

Dear Parents,

Our class will be taking part in trialling an engaging web tool designed to help them to develop their learning and explore their interests by sharing their classroom work with a real audience. Students will be using a classroom weblog to post their work to the internet.

A weblog, or “blog” as they are commonly called, is a special type of web page that can be created and easily updated using a web browser. Each new entry has its own date and time stamp. Each entry has a comments section where visitors to the blog may leave comments for the author (as long as they provide an email address).

The blog is part of the services offered by **INSERT PROVIDER**.

***OPTIONAL:*** For safety reasons, only people with the password **INSERT PASSWORD** can access the page.

**How It Works**

Students will be able to post their work from classes and homework tasks which can then be viewed using any mobile/internet device. Parents and family members can subscribe to our blog too to keep up to date with what is happening at school. Having a real audience is one of the key components to this program. In addition to receiving comments from their classmates, parents, aunties, uncles, cousins, etc. will be able to write encouraging comments on student work, which can be viewed by others. These comments will be monitored to ensure that they are of a positive nature.

All that is required to access the blog outside of school is an internet connection and a web browser (i.e. computer, tablet, phone, etc.).

The purpose of our classroom blog is to develop a connection between home and school so that parents, family and friends can be engaged in student learning and view what we are doing at school. It also gives real purpose to their work for the students.

**Security**

The only personally identifying information included in the blog will be your child’s first name (after they have logged in). Students are allowed to post their interests and opinions, but not their age, email address (this is needed to post a comment but is not viewable by the public), photographs or themselves or other sensitive information. As an additional privacy precaution, our school name does not appear on this blog.

**Permission**

Before your child may start posting to their blog, we are asking for you and your child to discuss and sign the attached form. Please return the form to the classroom teacher by **INSERT DATE**.

***Blogging Policy: Terms and Conditions***

1. Students using blogs are expected to act safely by keeping their personal information out of their posts, such as family name, home address, school name, city, country or other information that could help someone locate or contact them in person. Students may share their interests, ideas and preferences.
2. Students using blogs are expected to treat blog spaces as classroom spaces. Speech that is inappropriate for the class is not appropriate for the blog.
3. Students using blogs agree not to share their username, password or email address with anyone besides their teachers and parents. Students are never allowed to log on as another student.
4. Student blogs are to be a vehicle for sharing learning with real audiences. Most visitors to the blog who leave comments will leave respectful and helpful messages. If students receive a comment that makes them feel uncomfortable or is not respectful, tell a parent and then the teacher as soon as possible (including emailing the teacher at **INSERT TEACHER’S EMAIL ADDRESS**).
5. Students who do not abide by these terms and conditions may lose their opportunity to take part in the classroom blog.

We have read and understand these blogging terms and conditions.

I agree to uphold them:

STUDENT’S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student’s signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent’s signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Additional Information**

* The web has changed from a “read only” resource to a “read and write” toll where we can contribute ideas and products.
* Journalism, politics, business and schools are being transformed by this new technology.
* Tools like weblogs, wikis, RSS, social bookmarks, podcasting and others have the potential to transform education as well.
* Although publish student work to the internet is seen as risky by some, it can be done in ways that balance the power of publishing for an audience with the need to keep our students safe.

More information will follow including the blog web address on the return of this permission slip. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact **INSERT CONTACT PERSON**.