Keeping safe online
Peer and personal safety

At Ourimbah Public School we have an Internet Usage Policy.

Students are responsible for appropriate behaviour on the school’s network.

The use of the network is a privilege, not a right, and may be revoked if abused.

The students are advised never to access, keep, or send anything that they would not want their teachers or their parents to see.

Cyber bullying is bullying that uses the internet or other digital communication devise to insult, harm or threaten somebody. It is a growing phenomenon, impacting on the well-being of students, peer relationships of many young people and their families.

Cyber bullying presents new challenges, differing from traditional bullying in a number of ways:

- **Anonymity**: The ability to remain anonymous online makes people feel less accountable for their actions.
- **Location**: Cyber bullying can enter a person’s bedroom or other private space by just going on line.
- **Impact**: Hurtful comments are available to a wider audience, thus embarrassment is magnified, and
- **Permanence**: Online comments can stay around for good, making a lasting impact.

The following strategies may assist in keeping your children safe on line:

- Don’t respond to messages or postings from a bully
- Block correspondence (Block their mobile number and email address)
- Report any correspondence from a bully to a parent or teacher
• Keep evidence of any bullying to assist in tracking down the bully and potentially reporting the matter to police (screen captures, bully’s screen name, text and images)
• Use password protection and privacy security.
• Kid’s Helpline(phone 1800551800)

Peer and personal safety involves developing protective behaviours while using a range of online media including social networking. These behaviours include protecting personal information to safeguard privacy, identifying when feeling unsafe and recognising grooming tactics.

For a child aged 10–11 years old, this may include:

• understanding the risks of revealing personal information using ICT
• understanding that those met online are strangers and may be a threat to personal safety
• understanding appropriate online contact and who to maintain contact with
• recognising and reporting inappropriate behaviour by an online stranger to an adult or family member
• recognising and reporting when they have encountered inappropriate content online
• demonstrating an understanding of how to avoid or exit inappropriate sites (including reporting to authorities such as the teacher, school and, or,
• discussing online activities with a family member
• acting responsibly by caring for their own and others’ identity and personal information.