



WAIKARETU SCHOOL

Striving for Excellence

Wednesday 25 March 2020

Kia ora koutou,

As we move to online learning from mid-April, I would like to take this time to think about how we keep students safe online at home. Schools have filters, firewalls and monitoring software that helps make inappropriate content harder to access. At school we work with students to develop the skills and knowledge they need to search safely and to know what to do if they stumble across something that makes them feel uncomfortable or concerned. We are asking parents to monitor our learners when they are online.

Below we have excerpts adapted from our online safety agreement sent home at the start of this year as a reminder for our students.

As a digital citizen this means you will:

- **Keep it kind.** When you are online, think about others and talk or share in a kind way.
- **Keep it to yourself.** Keep your passwords and information about yourself or other people safe and private.
- **Keep it careful.** Think carefully about what you share and make sure it's something you are proud of and would be happy sharing with someone else face to face.
- **Keep it real.** Not everything you see online is real. It might look or sound real, but some things are made up or fake, so be careful to check or ask a teacher if you're not sure.
- **Keep it honest.** When we copy or use words, pictures and ideas from the internet, we need to make sure we share these things in the right way and follow the rules for sharing things that don't belong to us.
- **Keep it fair.** Make sure you check with others if it is okay to record them, or share photos or videos with them in it. They should have a say in what happens to things that go online if they are in them.
- **Keep it responsible.** If you bring your own device to school, use it in ways, and at the times that your teacher says it is okay to.

WHEN THINGS GO WRONG ONLINE AT HOME

Even when people try to do the right thing, sometimes things go wrong. If you or somebody you know does something online that isn't okay maybe by accident or on purpose, your parents will help you to sort it out. If you see things online that make you feel worried or upset, your parents will help you sort it out. The important thing is to tell your parent or another adult you trust.

Online bullying. Online bullying is not okay at our school at any time. If somebody is saying mean or hurtful things about you or somebody else online, talk to your parents or trusted adult. They will help you with what to do. Don't delete or hide the messages or pictures because these are important to show what has been happening. Turn your screen off and then go tell your parent or trusted adult.

Report a problem. If you see something online that you don't think should be there, tell your parent or a trusted adult as soon as you can. This is really helpful, and means we get to fix the problem quickly.

Online safety support. Netsafe helps people to be safe online. They can help you or your family if you are having problems online. They have free, private help for you and your family for any online safety problems, and they are there to help seven days a week.

<https://www.netsafe.org.nz/advice/parenting/>

Please contact me with any concerns,

Justine Brock
Principal
Waikaretu School