



5.8.3

St Leonard's Primary School Blogging Policy

Rationale:

This policy is to be read in conjunction with our current Digital Citizenship Policy.

Through blogging we will inspire our community to be actively connected to the Global world. Through learning together and thinking about thinking we can unlock the potential of learners and open our minds to new potentials.

AUSVELS details in the Inter-disciplinary learning area of Information and Communications Technology that students will:

- express themselves in contemporary and socially relevant ways
- communicate locally and globally to solve problems and to share knowledge
- understand the implications of the use of ICT and their social and ethical responsibilities as users

Aims:

At St Leonard's we incorporate blogging into our practice at all levels of the school to attend to these outcomes. Our teachers and students will also:

- create an audience for their work
- inform their families about what they do at school
- read, write, create and produce for authentic and meaningful purposes
- gather ideas from people beyond our classroom walls
- compare similarities and differences (gain global perspectives)
- share their knowledge and wonderings with a global community
- receive affirmation
- participate in reflective practice and create an online archive of their learning

We aim to provide students with hands on, authentic opportunities to introduce them to the following concepts and skills:

- Connected learning
- Positive digital footprint
- Effective digital citizenship including netiquette
- Transparency and accountability
- Web 2.0 and Presentation tools

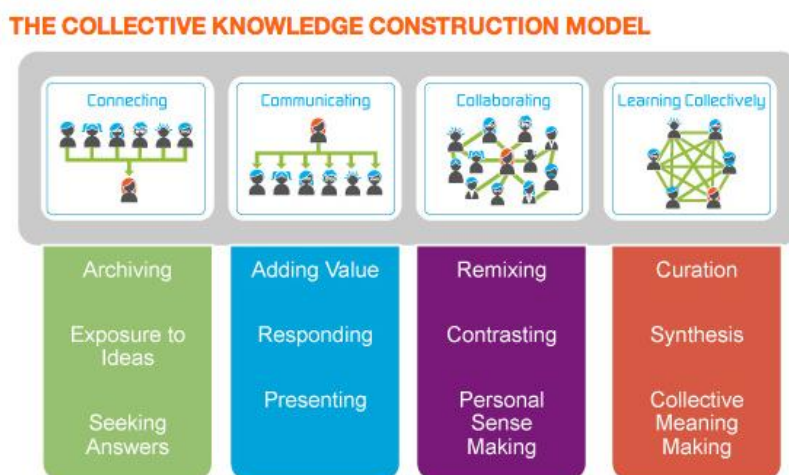
Implementation:

- From 2014 all classes will have a global2 classroom blog which is maintained primarily by the teacher. The minimum standards for all classroom blogs to be established prior to Blog Launch date (mid-term 1) and should include:
 - A theme for the blog site
 - An 'All About Us' page about the members of the class
 - Links to Blogging Policy and Guidelines
 - Blog roll with links to classroom blogs at St Leonards
 - Newsletter/Homework/Communication page
 - Inclusion of a photo gallery in a post
- Begin to engage the parent community through classroom blogs. Efforts to engage the community will include an information night in term 1, online posting of newsletters and homework on classroom blogs and regular posting of student work.
- Staff will engage in continued P.D. for blogging and will be lead and supported by the continued work of blogging leaders (originally the Change2 team).

Expectations:

- It is expected that all classes/communities will maintain a blog. There will be regular (weekly) posts relating to class activities and wherever possible, posts will seek to elicit feedback and responses from readers. As students become more capable, they will increase their level of contribution to the class blogs at the discretion of the teacher (guest posts etc). Teachers are expected to publicise their blogs to parents and encourage them to post comments.
- ‘**Academic commenting**’ will be modeled and taught to all students. Teachers need to encourage student blogging by providing regular feedback through comments. Teachers, Learning Support Staff, Specialist Staff and Administration Staff are encouraged to participate via comments and encouraging blog posts where appropriate.
- Blogging in the **Junior school** has the strong emphasis on modeling protocols and exposing students to the potential connections. Whilst modeling continues in the **Middle and Senior school**, students in Middle and Senior levels will be provided with authentic opportunities to use their class blogs to publish, share, question and receive feedback. These opportunities will form part of Literacy, Maths or Inquiry lessons. Specialist staff members are encouraged to create blogs for their areas.
- Teachers are encouraged to participate in blog sharing activities in order to engage with a wider community and develop relationships with like-minded bloggers.

We aim to extend our use of blogs to incorporate all stages of ‘The Collective Knowledge Construction Model’ (Ideas Lab <http://www.ideaslab.edu.au/design-lab/ckc/>)



Blog Guidelines:

We acknowledge the need to teach about Digital Citizenship. We recognise the 9 Elements of Digital Citizenship as a current conception of internet access and use for all staff and students and endeavour to address these through our structures and curriculum. The nine elements are as follows:

1. **Digital Security:** electronic precautions to guarantee safety
2. **Digital Rights & Responsibilities:** those freedoms extended to everyone in a digital world
3. **Digital Health and Wellness:** physical and psychological wellbeing in a digital technology world
4. **Digital Access:** full electronic participation in society
5. **Digital Commerce:** electronic buying and selling of goods
6. **Digital Communication:** electronic exchange of information
7. **Digital Etiquette:** electronic standards of conduct and procedure
8. **Digital Literacy:** process of teaching and learning about technology and the use of technology
9. **Digital Law:** electronic responsibility for actions and deeds

In the context of blogging we will operate under the following guidelines.

- Students are explicitly taught ‘Academic Commenting.’ Comments should be
 - Related to the content of the post.
 - Continuing a conversation started in the post or in other comments.
 - Connected to content learned or discussed in the classroom.
 - Challenges someone’s point of view.
 - Add something to the author’s post in form of a link, connection, idea, reminder and new perspective
- Students are explicitly taught about commenting netiquette. Students are taught
 - To acknowledge the author of the blog post.
 - To let the author know if you agree with him/her and why. It is also ok to disagree with something, just let the author know why you feel that way.
 - That one word comments are not very useful. Writing just “cool” or “nice” are not very helpful and don’t let the author of the blog post really know what you are thinking.
 - To always make sure you follow “netiquette”. Think if it is appropriate BEFORE you hit the submit button.
 - To always be polite. It does not matter if you agree or disagree with what you are reading in a blog. Don’t write anything you would be ashamed of saying to someone’s face. Don’t hurt somebody’s feelings.
- Posts will not include personal details about students such as surnames, addresses and family information. Never publish online the following information:
 - Address
 - Last Name
 - Password
 - Phone Number
 - E-mail address
 - Detailed physical description
 - Detailed location where you can be found on a given day and time
 - Photos of yourself
 - Never share your user name or password and never log in as someone else.
- All comments are moderated by teachers before being made public.
- Parents who leave comments are asked to use their first name only so as not to identify their child.
- All teachers and students must abide by general Internet acceptable/ responsible use policies of our school (refer to Appendix #2 Internet Policy 5.8.2).

References & Resources:

Teaching Commenting Skills: <http://langwitches.org/blog/2008/12/25/blogging-lesson-plan-commenting/>

Blogging : <http://langwitches.wikispaces.com/Blogging+with+your+Students>

Global2 : <http://global2.vic.edu.au/>

Evaluation:

- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school’s three-year review cycle.

This policy was reviewed by the staff in 2013.

It will be reviewed again in 2016

This policy was ratified by the Education Board in March 2014