Dear Parents/Guardians,

The Victorian Department of Education and Early Childhood Development [DEECD], Symantec, Cyber Safe Kids and Common Sense Media are currently conducting a pilot collaborative project in which 10 selected schools are trialing a digital citizenship curriculum. This digital citizenship curriculum has been aligned with local/national and international curriculum achievement standards, learning areas, competencies/capabilities. Participating schools will also trial the use of an Incident Response Tool.

Each school will select classes across 2-4 year levels to participate in the teaching of the digital citizenship curriculum. Your child’s class has been selected for involvement in this program.

The pilot will be evaluated and implemented in Term 3-4. The project within each classroom has been developed and aligned to ensure that it addresses the specific context and learning needs of the class. The classroom teachers involved are supported in terms of resourcing and professional learning, both at the school level and at the DEECD level.

As part of this pilot, a research team from Cyber Safe Kids has recently been commissioned by the Symantec to research the application of the new digital citizenship curriculum and the alignment to the national curriculum. The research will inform school sectors (Government, Independent, Catholic) and school communities as to how the most effective ways to change in knowledge, attitudes and behaviour and what it means to grow up digital. It will empower communities to actively think critically, behave safely and participate responsibly in their digital lives. This will occur through the teaching and learning, workshops for students, parents and teachers. It will also assist in guiding policy and procedures around the use of these technologies in the future.

Goals for the School and School Community:

- Participation in a world first pilot.
- Context for parent education.
- 21st Century learning approach to technology use and digital citizenship.
- Cost effective: training and access to resources is free.
- Tailor made/flexible program/curriculum for immediate use.
- Resources and training is evidence informed.
- Prevention strategies and knowledge development for teachers, parents and students for responding to incidents that involve some form of device and Internet use.
- Evaluation/assessment tools will be provided.
We are writing to request your consent for your child/dependent to be included in the research of this project.

The Research will involve:

- accessing some of the student data collected within the classroom, including relevant student assessment data, student attendance and attitude data and student work samples.
- an online survey completed by students (conducted within the classroom under supervision of the teacher).
- discussion groups

Should you agree to consent to your child’s participation in this research project, you are free to withdraw your consent at any time during the study. Withdrawal of consent will not alter your child’s participation in the classroom program. It will mean that their input will not be recorded for the research.

All data obtained from your child will be de-identified so that their information cannot be recognised by others. No individual students or schools will be identified in resulting reports unless further permissions are gained.

The online surveys will be administered through Cyber Sake Kids. Access to responses will be limited to the researchers (by user name and password) and Cyber Safe Kid employees specifically managing the online surveys. All data collected will be maintained in a secure environment at Cyber Safe Kids. Only members of the research team will have access to that material. It will be kept for a period of six years and then disposed of.

If you would like to discuss the project and your child’s and your school’s involvement in it please contact Robyn Treyvaud at Cyber Safe Kids by email robyn@cybersafekids.com.au

Yours sincerely,

Robyn Treyvaud

Parent

I give my permission for my child to participate in this project according to the conditions in the Plain Language Statement.

I have been given a copy of Plain Language Statement and Consent Form to keep.

The researcher has agreed not to reveal the participants’ identities and personal details if information about this project is published or presented in any public form.

Name of person giving consent (printed) .................................................................

School ............................................................................................................................

Signature ...................................................................................................................... Date ........................................