

IONA PRESENTATION PRIMARY SCHOOL

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BLOGGING POLICY

Adapted from RC Junior School Blogging Policy (CC-BY-NC Henrietta Miller).

This policy will guide the development of classroom blogging at Iona Presentation Primary School from 2015 onwards.

- Iona PS views class blogs as an extension of the classroom, and thus a means of communication and sharing with parents and the wider community. Classroom blogs will replace contributions to the school newsletter.
- Class blogs are viewed as 21st century online publishing spaces which allow for authentic teaching and learning opportunities which extend beyond classroom wall, and allow for rich connections with global audiences.

BLOGGING OBJECTIVES

Iona PS blogs are used to:

- Promote the school community.
- Encourage parents to connect with the learning within their child's classroom.
- Provide a publishing space to 'show off' all that is good about our school with authentic, real world audiences.
- Provide a publishing space to display learning in the form of written posts, photographic displays, videos, slide shows of student work, etc.
- Provide a publishing space that all students and staff feel proud of.

Class blogs are used to teach:

- Students an awareness of global issues and perspectives, through visiting and commenting on other class blogs.
- Literacy skills, including spelling, grammar and punctuation, which are important skills for publishing for authentic, real- world audiences.
- Cybersafety and digital citizenship, including safe and responsible online behaviour.
- Students' ICT skills, by using a range of Web 2.0 tools.

Class blogs allow:

- Students the opportunity to review and edit their work, through writing comments and blog posts.
- Students to make global connections with other students and classes through blogging and blogging projects, such as Quadblogging or the Student Blogging Challenge.
- Teachers the opportunity for impromptu learning through the use of flag counters and country maps, monitoring global readership of class blogs.
- Teachers to develop and model the concepts of digital citizenship among students.
- Teachers to model the wise use of blogs, to help extend and differentiate their teaching beyond their classroom walls.

IONA PS BLOGGING GUIDELINES

Iona PS views the development of classroom blogging as a long-term process over the next few years, beginning in 2015. With this in mind, the following blogging guidelines have been established:

- All year groups will maintain a classroom blog. Classes with more than one teacher will share the responsibility for maintaining the class blog.
- Teachers and students are strongly encouraged to take ownership of the title, theme, and sidebar widgets for their blogging space.
- It is important that class blogs are updated on a regular basis -
 - Semester 1, 2015 - Minimum of 2 posts / Term
 - By the end of Term 4, 2015, we expect class blogs to be updated on a minimum fortnightly basis
 - The ICT Specialist will contribute posts to classroom blogs
- Blog posts do not need to be long and complicated - in many cases, a short paragraph and a video / photo slideshow is appropriate.
- **All blog comments will be moderated by classroom teachers** to ensure that inappropriate comments are edited or removed prior to publication. Moderation may occur during, and outside of school hours.

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING AND COACHING

- Staff will receive in-class blogging support and coaching from the ICT Specialist; and some external assistance from upper primary student digital leaders.
- Administration and the ICT Specialist will explicitly model and support the development of Iona PS blogs through contributions to an Administration blog, and facilitation of professional learning opportunities.

SPECIALIST TEACHER BLOGGING

- Arts specialists will contribute to a whole school arts blog (for Music, Visual Art, Drama, and Choir).

- The ICT specialist will arrange blogging support sessions for specialist teachers in their DOTT time
- Part-time specialists will work towards contributing a minimum of two blog posts per Term (these posts can share students' work across several year levels)

CLASSROOM AND STUDENT BLOGGING

- Teachers will develop and explicitly model the wise use of classroom blogs, to help extend and differentiate their instruction.
- Parents are encouraged to become partners in the classroom and student blogging spaces, reading, commenting, and interacting with blog content. **K-2 blogs are to be viewed as teacher publishing spaces.**
- Commenting on other blogs will be in the form of teacher and class created comments.
- Kindergarten and Pre-Primary blogs will be private password protected, with the password shared with students' parents and administration.
- Making Years 1-6 class (and student) blogs public is essential to the success of the program. **Years 3 and 4 will maintain blogs which are joint collaborative constructions by the teachers and students.**
- Students may create posts under the guidance and review of the classroom teacher and ICT Specialist.
- No student in Year 3 or 4 will gain school permission to start their own personal blog. **Years 5 and 6 will also maintain blogs which are collaborative.**
- From 2016, subject to teacher preference, upper primary students may seek permission for a public individual blog after they have satisfied separate guidelines and been awarded their blogging licence.
- Parents will have the option to export a copy of their Year 6 child's blog when they leave the school, or have it transferred to another service. Student blogs will be deleted when they leave the school.

BLOGGING AGREEMENT

- Primary students and parents must sign a Blogging Agreement that covers areas such as what makes a good comment, cyber bullying and appropriate language.
- Student accounts will be managed by the ICT specialist, with their public usernames standardised as first name.initial.ionaps.
- A copy of this agreement will be published on all classroom blogs

PHOTOGRAPHY & VIDEO

- On class blogs students will be identified or mentioned in posts, photographs, videos, and blog comments by their **first name only**.
- Parents will be asked to ensure that their blog comments protect their child's identity, for example, commenting as "Sarah's Mum" rather than "Mrs Smith".
- Publication of student photographs and videos on classroom blogs will occur subject to parental opt-out under the revised Internet Access Agreement