

Dear WMES families:

We would like to take an opportunity to clarify a few of our school rules and expectations regarding technology use at WMES.

The Provincial Code of Conduct requires that all students:

- *use information and communications technology, including the Internet, digital resources, and e-communication, and all forms of social media in a responsible and acceptable manner consistent with the Nova Scotia Public School Network Access and Use Policy and the Cyber-safety Act (2013)*

At Waverley Memorial Elementary, technology is frequently used as a tool to enhance learning experiences at all grade levels. The Acceptable Use of Technology Guidelines are reviewed regularly, **and any adult in the building can request to see what students are doing on their technology at any point during the school day.**

At no point are students permitted to take photos or videos of themselves or others to post on personal social media sites.

Please take a few minutes to review this policy with your child if they are bringing their own devices to school. Any students who are unable to follow this policy will not be permitted to have personal technology devices at school and may lose the privilege of using school technology as well.

We would also like to encourage you to take a few minutes to sit down with your child if they are using social media sites and review the content that they are posting, and that they are being exposed to, as well as to check their settings to see if their accounts are public or private. With students spending an increasing amount of time online it is so important to ensure they have the tools they need to stay safe.

Thank you for your continued support.

The staff at WMES

Resources

To learn more about what you can do to help, contact your child's school, or check out these resources:

- **Kids Help Phone:** 1-800-668-6868
www.kidshelpphone.ca
- **Bully Hotline, Halifax Regional Police**
Phone: 902-490-7283
Text: 902-233-SAVE
E-mail: bullyhotline@halifax.ca
- **Provincial School Code of Conduct** - [link](#)
- [Information and Communication Technology | Nova Scotia Public School Program](#)
- [Provincial School Network Access and Use Policy](#)
- [Get Cyber Safe](#)
- [How to keep your kids safe online - Keeping Canada Safe - CBC-TV](#)
- [Keeping Kids Safe Online](#)
- [Online Safety 101: How to Keep Your Kids Safe Online - Privacy Canada](#)
- [Online Safety \(for Parents\) | Nemours KidsHealth](#)

Follow-up:

Navigating Social Media / Online Chats:

We work very hard to teach our students to problem solve and build each other up instead of tearing each other down, but social media is a very tricky platform for our young students, and it can overwhelm them.

The best way we can help them learn to navigate these platforms is by providing them a safety net. If your child is on social media, or involved in online gaming:

- We ask that you sit down and discuss how to respond to negative or inappropriate comments
- We ask that you let them know that you will check the chats, read their texts from time to time, and listen in when they are gaming

This is not an invasion of their privacy; it is a boundary that they absolutely need at this age in a world where boundaries on social media are very blurry.

They need to know that they can talk to you about negative comments, and that they should be careful what they say, because you could read it, or overhear it. By preparing them now we are giving them tools they need to protect themselves, and others as they get older and social media becomes even more complicated.

We have included some links to help you if you are interested.

Thanks for your support, and please reach out if we can help in any way.