



ST MICHAEL'S PARISH SCHOOL ASHBURTON

Blogging Policy

February 2014

1. Rationale

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; and
- understand the implications of the use of ICT and their social and ethical responsibilities as users of ICT.

St Michael's Parish School incorporates blogging into practice at all levels of the school to attend to these outcomes. Teachers and students will also:

- create an audience for their work;
- inform families about what they do at school;
- demonstrate and be exposed to a variety of writing styles;
- gather ideas from people beyond our classroom walls;
- compare similarities and differences (gain global perspectives);
- share knowledge and wonderings with a global community;
- receive affirmation; and
- participate in reflective practice and create an online archive of their learning.

The benefits further include introducing students 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

2. Implementation

The following table relates to implementation after the initial set-up year, that is, 2013.

Level	Activity	Purpose	Responsibility ¹
Junior	Class Blogs	Modelling	Classroom teacher
Middle	Class Blogs	Modelling	Classroom teacher
	Introduction to student blogs	Personal practice within defined and controlled environment	Classroom teacher and eLearning Coordinator
Senior	Class Blogs	Modelling	Classroom teacher
	Student Blogs	Continuing monitored and purposeful publication of learning	Classroom teacher and eLearning Coordinator
	Student Blogs – Global2 ² (gradual introduction)	Further personalisation and continuing monitored and purposeful publication of learning	Classroom teacher and eLearning Coordinator

¹ This includes management of comments and posts (regular review) supported by eLearning Coordinator

² Preferred supplier of all class and student blogs through CEO agreement with Edublogs called Global2

3. 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 through emails to parents, notices, etc.

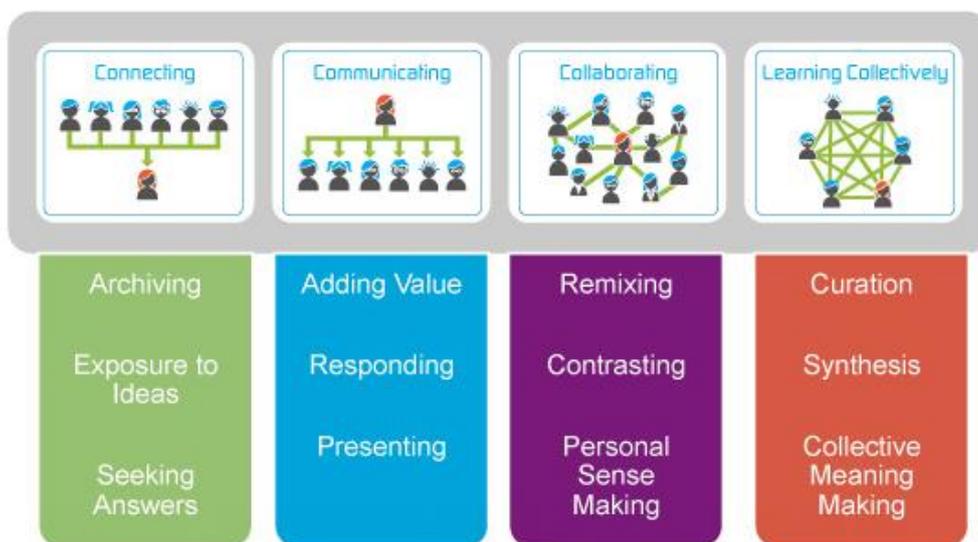
Students will be modelled and taught '**Academic commenting**' standards. Teachers need to encourage student blogging by providing regular feedback through comments. Specialist staff is encouraged to participate via comments and encouraging blog posts where appropriate.

Blogging in the **Junior School** has the strong emphasis on modelling protocols and exposing students to the potential connections. Whilst modelling continues in the **Middle and Senior school**, students in middle and senior levels will be provided with authentic opportunities to use their student blogs to publish, share, question and receive feedback. These opportunities will form part of weekly Literacy, Mathematics and Inquiry lessons. Specialist staff members are encouraged to create blogs for their areas.

Teachers are encouraged to participate in blog sharing activities such as Blogging Buddies and Quad-blogging in order to engage with a wider community and develop relationships with like-minded bloggers. Senior students will be encouraged to develop personal blogs (Global2) through involvement in projects such as Student Blogging Challenge.

Blogs will include Blog-rolls of other school blogs to cross promote. Staff responsible for student blogs will manage comments and posts in a timely manner so as to encourage regular activity.

St Michael's aims to extend the use of blogs to incorporate all stages of 'The Collective Knowledge Construction Model' (Ideas Lab, <http://www.ideaslab.edu.au/design-lab/ckc/>).



4. Blog Guidelines

We acknowledge the need for correct cyber safety behaviour and netiquette including the following guidelines:

- All comments are to be positive and encouraging. Students are explicitly taught 'Academic commenting' standards.
- Posts written by students are checked by teachers before they are published on the class blog.
- Posts will not include personal details about students such as **surnames, addresses and family information**.
- 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.
- Where photo and video material is used, teachers will make sure that explicit permission is given by the parents/carers. Children are only identified by their first name (see IT user and blogging agreement).
- All teachers and students must abide by general Internet acceptable/responsible use policies of St Michael's.

5. Additional 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/>
- Kidblog: <http://kidblog.org/home/>

6 Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed as part of the St Michael's School Improvement Plan review cycle.

7. Ratification

This policy was ratified by John Whitehouse (SAC Chairperson).