Dear Parent/Carer,

Our school provides access to the online services provided by the Department of Education. These increase the range of teaching tools available to staff and will enhance the learning opportunities available to students.

I am writing to you to seek approval for your child to be given access to these online services. This will involve the school using the student’s full name, preferred name, class and year to access their unique online services account.

The Department’s online services currently provide:

- individual email accounts for all students and staff;
- access to the internet, with all reasonable care taken by schools to monitor and control students’ access to web sites while at school;
- access to the online teaching and learning services such as web conferencing, digital resources and online learning activities;
- access to online file storage and sharing services; and
- access to Portal services from home if the home computer is connected to the Internet.

If you agree to your son or daughter making use of these online services, please complete the permission slip attached to this letter and have your child sign the Acceptable Usage Agreement form. Please go through and explain all the dot points in the Acceptable Use Agreement to ensure your child understands the concept before the permission slip is signed. The signed document should be returned to school so that an online services account can be created for your child.

Please note that while every reasonable effort is made by schools and the Department to prevent student exposure to inappropriate online content when using the Department’s Online Services, it is not possible to completely eliminate the risk of such exposure.

You should be aware that the Department has the right to review, audit, intercept, access and disclose messages created, received or sent over Department online services. Logs of email transactions and internet access date are kept for administrative, legal and security purposes and may be monitored. Similar to other corporate records, emails and internet access records are discoverable in the event of legal action and are subject to provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 1992.

You should also be aware that general Internet browsing by your child not conducted via the Department’s network is NOT monitored or filtered by the Department. The Department encourages close family supervision of all Internet use by children in locations other than school, and strongly recommends the use of appropriate internet filtering software.

Yours sincerely,
Scott Harris
Principal