



# Class Blogs Guidelines for 2012

## **Purpose/Intent:**

The current NZ curriculum seeks as part of its vision that students are actively involved, connected, confident, life-long learners. It seeks a strengthening of the home-school partnership and invites us to consider how we might ensure parents are fully engaged in supporting learning, and have the language of learning.

In our school, there are good examples where students are involved, connected, confident and learning to be life-long learners. There are also a moderate number of parents who are fully engaged in supporting the learning of their child. These parents in recent times have been seeking more information about the exact nature of day-to-day learning. In addition there are other non-engaged parents that we need to confront and get engaged. The strengthening of each school's home-school partnership is one significant thrust of the current government.

Class blogs are, by themselves, not the answer. However, implemented effectively and with time and commitment, they do offer opportunity to 'connect' with parents in no other way previously.

Effective use of class blogs may:

- Enable anytime, anywhere communication directly with parents about what is being learnt (and the messages are consistent with what we tell children);
- Extend the audience (and therefore potentially feedback) for students;
- Engage student in continuing their learning out of school hours, challenging them further;
- Build esteem in our students;
- Provide teaching and learning opportunities where the blog is the source or portal, rich with learning opportunities;
- Foster an interest in our school's on-line presence (may also read our calendar, school news, policies, connect with education websites for parents etc)

## **Expectations for Implementation in our School:**

It is an expectation that:

1. Each class will have a blog. This will be set up and active by the end of the first week of each school year.
2. There will be a strong presence of the 'driving forces' of our charter. In particular there will be a strong student voice and sharing of formative practice.
3. Teachers and students will co-create the blog including making entries/updates.
4. The blogs will make good use of a multi-literacy approach to communication. There will be a mix of text, images, audio, animations/slideshows, and moving images.
5. The class blog will be actively promoted as a place to visit, with parents and others, encouraged to leave a comment.
6. The school newsletter will have a weekly link to the 'site of the week'.
7. A balance of student voice, teacher guided posts or engagement posts may be made.

8. Each class will discuss current posts, feedback and leaning links on the site. It will reflect what students know, are experiencing, or are learning about. (a good time for this is during brain food breaks)
9. As a general rule there will be at least two entries per week throughout the year.