



OAKBANK
SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER



EXPERIENCING
Agriculture

Connection | Respect | Responsibility



Government of South Australia
Department for Education

TERM

1

WEEK

6

MAR 2026

Principal's Tours

Do you know any friends or family who are searching for a new school to call home?



They're invited to join us for one of our **Oakbank School Principal's Tours**, booked via **QR**, oakbank.sa.edu.au or **phone** us on **83987200**.

We'd love the chance to show you why Oakbank School is a great choice to activate and inspire your child's education!



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Upcoming Dates

Please check our Daymap
Connect calendar for further
dates & amendments.

WEEK 06	04 MAR	2026 Open Night Wednesday 4 March 6-8pm
WEEK 07	09 MAR	Public Holiday - Adelaide Cup Monday 9 March
NAPLAN Testing - Weeks 7 & 8 Years 3, 5, 7 & 9 students		
	13 MAR	Sports Day Friday 13 March <i>Families welcome!</i>
WEEK 08	18 MAR	Governing Council AGM Wednesday 18 March
WEEK 10	02 APR	Student Free Day 1 Thursday 2 April
	03 APR	Public Holidays Good Friday - Easter Monday Friday 3 April Monday 6 April
WEEK 11	07 APR	Student Free Day 2 Tuesday 7 April



oakbank.daymap.net/daymap



oakbank.daymap.net/daymapconnect

Having problems with Daymap? Call us or try our guides on oakbank.sa.edu.au/guides

OAKBANK SCHOOL R-12 Education
oakbank.sa.edu.au 8398 7200

154 Onkaparinga Valley Rd, Oakbank SA 5034



Government of South Australia
Department for Education

 **OAKBANK SCHOOL**
Reception to Year 12

ACTIVATING INSPIRING
Curiosity Growth

 From the Principal



A Strong Start to Term 1

Term 1 is well underway at Oakbank School - what an energising start it has been!

From connection-building experiences to hands-on learning, our students have embraced the year with enthusiasm and positivity.

Year 7 Pool Day

Our year 7 students kicked off their secondary journey with a fantastic Pool Day. It was a wonderful opportunity to build friendships, strengthen connections, and create a sense of belonging early in the year. Laughter, teamwork and encouragement set the tone for what promises to be a great year ahead.

Year 12 Retreat at The Haus Restaurant

Our year 12 students gathered at The Haus at Handorf for their beginning of year retreat — a valuable time to reflect, set goals, and focus on the year ahead. Our senior students embraced the opportunity to build unity, clarify their aspirations, and prepare for the important final chapter of their schooling journey.





A Strong Start in Primary

Our Primary staff have prioritised ensuring every child feels safe, settled and confident in their new learning spaces. Mrs Cookson, our reception teacher, has created a classroom that is full of wonder, care and learning. Our new receptions have begun school so well!

All classes have established strong routines and building positive relationships have been a key focus. We are especially excited about the launch of our strengthened early literacy program. With a clear, evidence-informed approach, students are already engaging deeply in structured literacy learning that will support strong foundations in reading and writing.



LifeX: a journey of discovery

LifeX has launched in secondary school. LifeX is a chance for our students to work on projects and passions in areas of their choosing, with teachers who are also passionate about this area of interest.

On Friday afternoons, they are working in cross-age groups from years 8-10. Year 7s will join from term 2. Through these opportunities students will develop authentic real-life skills and learning dispositions which will set them up for life. We look forward to sharing the progress of these projects throughout the year.





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Our 2026 School Leadership Team

Executive Leadership



Principal
Lee Knight



Deputy Principal
Heath Perrott



Assistant Principal,
Secondary School
Bob Buxton



Assistant Principal,
Inclusion and Wellbeing
Maddy Eccleston



Leader - Agriculture,
Science and Sustainability
Milly Hoffmann



Business Manager
Louise Spencer

Leadership



Wellbeing Leader
Jasmin Ferraro



Learning Culture Leader,
Rec-Year 6
Nikki Kearton



Learning Culture Leader,
Year 7-8
Rachel Sant



Learning Culture Leader,
Year 9-10
Dave Binney

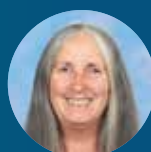


Learning Culture Leader,
Year 11-12
Kat Thompson

Ancillary Leadership



IT Manager
Matthew Fazakerley



Inclusion and
Intervention Manager
Ruth Hughes

83987200
oakbank.sa.edu.au
dl.0762.info@schools.sa.edu.au



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Agriculture Off to a Thriving Start

Agriculture has begun the year with incredible momentum thanks to the generous donation of over 100 potted lemon trees from a local wholesaler. Under the expert guidance of our new Leader of Innovation in Agriculture, Science and Sustainability, Milly Hoffmann, students have already planted nearly half of these trees in our orchard — a fantastic hands-on learning experience in action.

The remaining trees are being carefully nurtured in their pots and will be available for sale to raise funds for future Agriculture projects.

Our Orchard is nearly fully fenced to allow our chickens to run free during the day and be safe in their chicken caravan at night. This means we can soon re stock our laying birds and start supplying eggs again.

If you have the means to support our growing Agricultural program, we'd love to hear from you. Please consider either becoming a sponsor or making a one-off donation. Alternatively, we have launched our **Oakbank Agricultural Advisory Group** your expertise would also be much appreciated. This group will be able to provide our staff and students with advice and support to help our programs thrive and make best use of our 22 acres.

To register your interest, please contact: **Milly.Hoffmann416@schools.sa.edu.au** or **dl.0762.agriculture@schools.sa.edu.au** or give us a call.



Student Leadership Council

Our Student Leadership Councils nominees went through a comprehensive application process, including an interview with the Principal or Deputy Principal. We are incredibly proud of all those who were nominated to lead in our school.

The following page introduces the students who were successful in winning student leadership positions in the Primary and Secondary Schools.

From strengthening literacy foundations to expanding our orchard, term 1 has begun with connection, purpose and opportunity. We look forward to all that this year will bring for our Oakbank community.

Lee KnightPrincipal



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Our 2026 SLC School Captains & Vice-Captains

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Student Leadership Council (SLC) School Captains and Vice Captains are the new name for the SLC President and Vice Presidents.

These Captains and Vice Captains will be our Student leaders for 2026 and will lead by example, promote positive culture, and embody the school's values. They will help make decisions and strengthen connections both at a school level as well as our community.

These nine students presented exceptional ideas on how they would like to make a positive change and lead initiatives in our school community. Each of our Secondary School Captains and Vice-captains have a focus aligning with areas they are passionate about in regards to school life and student representation.

We are very proud and happy to announce our 2026 School Captains and Vice Captains.



Captains - Primary



Jordan
Ashby



Shacatti
Nicholls



Captains - Secondary



Taylor
Ramsay

Student Voice



Hamish
Butler

School Culture



Caitlin
Colla

Agriculture



Vice Captains - Primary



Kirra
Jones



Monika
Pasko



Vice Captains - Secondary



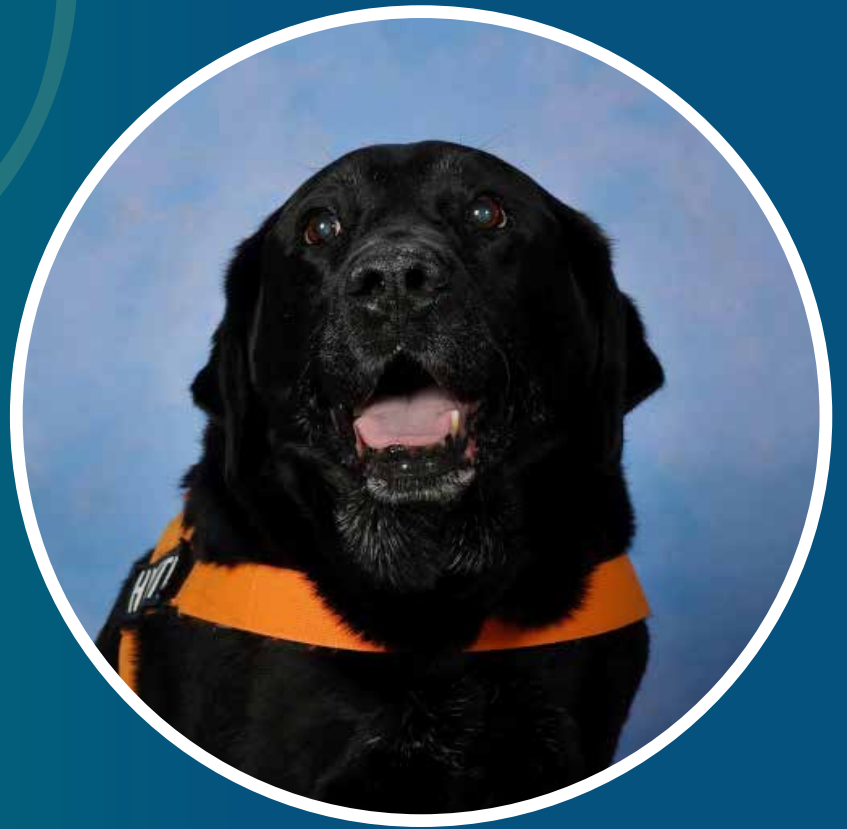
Katie
Hudson

*Student
Wellbeing*



Niamh
Burgoyne

*School
Promotion*



◎ A special message about Hunter

It is with deep sadness that we share some difficult news from our wellbeing team and Stacey Clark, Hunter's owner. Many of you will know Hunter, our much-loved wellbeing dog, whose gentle presence has brought comfort and joy to students and staff throughout the years.

Hunter has been an important member of our school community — always ready to lend a calming paw, offer a snuggle after a tough day, or greet students with his warm, friendly spirit.

Recently, Hunter was diagnosed with a terminal cancer. While this news is heartbreaking for all of us, we are incredibly grateful for the time, companionship and

comfort he has given our students. Hunter will continue to attend school everyday, until he no longer can, however he may not be in classes as much depending on how he is feeling each day.

Students have been informed by visiting Vet Nurse, Menindie. Menindie volunteered her time to allow the students to receive the information in an age-appropriate manner and to any questions. You may see Menindie in the community as she has just started a new role at the Woodside Vet. Our wellbeing team are also there for our students who may be struggling.

We will continue to support Hunter with as much care and affection as he has shown us, and we know our school community — both young and old — will take good care of him for his remaining time with us.

Lee Knight
Principal





Oakbank School Governing Council AGM



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Together
we can make
Oakbank School
even better.

What does a Governing Council do?

Made up of a vibrant group of positive and engaged parents and caregivers, a community representative, the Site Leader (Principal) and nominated Staff Representative/s, the Governing Council provides governance and oversight for Oakbank School. Governing Council guides, monitors and works together with the Site Leader to set and approve broad directions for the school. The Site Leader, rather than Governing Council, is responsible for the day-to-day management and operations of the school.

Governing Council works with the **Site Leader** to:

- involve the local community
- develop and approve local policies
- set the broad direction and vision of the site
- monitor and review the site improvement plan
- fundraise and support school community initiatives

The Site Leader works with Governing Council to:

- give educational leadership
- carry out the site's policies
- carry out the site improvement plan.
- preparing and supplying financial reports to the council via the finance committee.

Our governing council generally meets twice a term on a Wednesday night to talk about the direction for the site, with smaller sub-group meetings organised as required for special projects. Members also work with the school and community on events, fundraisers, special projects, consultations and panels.

Governing Council Annual General Meeting

6.00pm
Wednesday
18 March



Followed by a
Governing Council
Meeting at 6.30pm

Are you interested in becoming a member of Governing Council?

Parent / Carer Representative
& Community Representative
positions are currently available.

Nomination Forms

Forms are available from the **Front Office** and our **website**. Self nominations are valid. Please return completed forms to our **Business Manager**, Louise Spencer by 4.00pm 16 March.

Want to Know More?

Why not talk to our **Governing Council Chairperson Alistair MacPherson**, or **Secretary Louise Spencer** for more info?

dl.0762.governingcouncil@
schools.sa.edu.au.

For more information on Governing Councils:
www.education.sa.gov.au and search for "Governing Council"



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Are you
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our socials?



[oakbankas](https://www.facebook.com/oakbankas)



[oakbank_school](https://www.instagram.com/oakbank_school)





Milly Hoffmann

Agriculture, Science & Innovation Leader

This is my first year at Oakbank in a newly developed role supporting agriculture, science and sustainability across the school. I teach Agriculture and Science with a focus on hands-on, industry-connected learning that builds practical skills, responsibility and clear pathways beyond school.



Milly's loves!



Country Music



Good Food



All things agricultural



Family



Harry!

I have taught agriculture for many years in high schools, area schools and primary schools, and value what each setting brings. Students thrive when they are trusted, challenged and supported.

I grew up in the Riverland among citrus, vines, sheep and cropping. Agriculture shaped my work ethic, values and respect for community. We will always need food and fibre, and agriculture connects people through shared purpose and responsibility.

Throughout my career, I have built strong partnerships across the agriculture and wine industries to create authentic opportunities for students. From vineyard management and winemaking to livestock competitions and mentoring, students gain exposure to real workplaces and career pathways. Watching a student step into an opportunity they once thought was out of reach remains one of the most rewarding parts of my work.

I have taken students to International Dairy Week and recently worked with them to raise \$40,000 for a study tour to Grapevine, Texas through the Barossa Council Sister City Program. Seeing young people grow into confident leaders who represent their community is deeply fulfilling.

I became a teacher because of the educators who shaped me. My mum, an incredible teacher, instilled in me a love of science and agriculture, resilience and the belief that there is always a way forward. I believe learning should be purposeful and engaging.

Outside of school, I enjoy country music, good food and all things agriculture. I have a soft spot for sheep and a well-timed agriculture pun. I am close to my family and a proud aunt. My nephew, Rocket Ronny Judd Plaisted, competes in the Asian Talent Cup and dreams of MotoGP. I also have a border collie named Harry who enjoys being part of Oakbank life.

“

When young people are given real opportunities, they discover what they are capable of. My role is to help them find those opportunities and back them all the way.

”

LIFE X





Life X

Oakbank School's Friday afternoon learning program for Years 7-10



LifeX is designed to activate curiosity, inspire growth, and empower students to explore their emerging passions through authentic, hands-on real-world life experiences and personalised pathways.

LifeX aims to:

- Provide hands on, passion driven learning experiences beyond traditional subjects
- Build key life dispositions such as curiosity, resilience, creativity, and confidence

Each experience includes:

- Goal setting
- Skill building activities
- A final presentation showcase of learning

Why it matters for students:

- Strengthens personal character and independence
- Builds real world skills and confidence
- Encourages curiosity, teamwork, and creativity
- Gives students a sense of pride through their end of cycle showcase

When surveyed, students were overwhelmingly positive about the program!

“ I like how we got to choose what we are doing ”

93% of students strongly agree that LifeX is a great idea

“ It's hands on and fun ”

95% of students strongly agree that they are enjoying LifeX

“ It's great being able to do things I like, have fun with friends and expand my skillset ”

98% of students agree that they are enjoying learning something new or doing something different to their normal subjects.



APPLYING FOR A SCHOOL CARD



School Card Scheme

If you're a low-income family with children attending government schools, you can get financial help with school fees, materials & services charges with the School Card scheme.



Oakbank School, in partnership with the School Device Program, offers families who apply for and are eligible for School Card in 2026 free* access to a laptop device for the school year for secondary (years 7 - 12) students.

Who can apply

School Card is available to:

- families with children aged four years and over who attend a school full-time
- independent full-time students studying year 10, 11 or 12
- adult re-entry students who are completing their SACE.

Eligibility

To qualify for a School Card, your family's gross income must be below a certain limit. See online for full details.

How to apply

Applications for the 2026 school year will open mid January 2026.

** see Oakbank School School Card Laptop Access Scheme Device Loan Agreement for full details*

Applying online is easy! Simply follow the steps below.

- STEP 1** Visit sa.gov.au/education/schoolcard
- STEP 2** Select the type of School Card you would like to apply for (for example 'Type A' - the most common) and follow the prompts.
- STEP 3** Complete all mandatory fields.
Please note: you cannot submit your application unless all mandatory fields are complete.
- STEP 4** Once you have completed a page click on the 'NEXT' button.
- STEP 5** Once you have filled out all pages click the 'SUBMIT' button.
Please note: if you exit the form without clicking 'SUBMIT' your details will be lost.

You can save the form, and return to complete it at another time, by clicking on the 'SAVE' button.



sa.gov.au/education/schoolcard



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Ready for School checklist

We've created a checklist to help build a routine to support you through a day at school.



Do I have food packed?

Food fuels your body and brain for the day. Food = energy!



Is my water bottle filled up?

Staying hydrated helps us feel energized and to stay cool.



How did I sleep last night?

Sleep recharges us for the day ahead, have a think if making some changes to your sleep routine would be helpful.



Is my laptop charged and bag packed with my books and pencil case?

Having your bag packed with what you need for the day can help to feel prepared and provide a sense of control.



How am I feeling right now?

Excited to see a friend? Nervous about a subject or friendship?

Checking in with how you are feeling can help you to understand that tightness in your shoulders or stomach and know what regulation strategies may be helpful to try.

“

New easier username!

You can now log on to Daymap with your registered email.

”

“

Forgotten your password?

You can now reset it without a student ID!

”



OAKBANK SCHOOL

Meet the new



Daymap Companion

Daymap have released their new and improved **Daymap Companion** app for parents & caregivers, offering a more user-friendly experience.

Search in your device's store for "Daymap" to download.

Sign in by searching for "Oakbank School" and signing in with your existing Parent ID and password*.

Need to reset your password?



Try the Daymap Quick Connect Guide
oakbank.sa.edu.au/guides



dl.0762.icthelp@schools.sa.edu.au





Term 2 Year 10 Work Experience

Year 10 Work Experience Week will be held in Week 1 of Term 2, from Monday 27 April to Friday 1 May 2026. This program offers students an excellent opportunity to apply their classroom learning in real workplaces, develop essential practical skills, and explore potential career pathways.

Students are required to secure their own work placements by contacting local businesses as soon as possible. We strongly encourage students to seek placements that align with their genuine interests. Not only does work experience provide valuable insights into various industries, but it can also lead to part-time employment opportunities or positive references, and support future applications to TAFE (VET) courses.

If you are a parent of a year 10 student, talk to them discuss what what they are wanting to do, and where they are in securing a placement. Work experience is an important step in preparing students for life beyond school, and we look forward to hearing about the diverse experiences our students will gain.

If you have any questions, or would like any further information, please contact:

Learning Culture Leader - Year 9-10
David Binney
David.Binney446@schools.sa.edu.au



“

Not only does work experience provide valuable insights into various industries, but it can also lead to part-time employment opportunities or positive references, and support future training.

”



Agriculture

🌀 Agriculture Round-up!

We are halfway through the term and there has already been a lot happening in Agriculture at Oakbank. Students have been busy planting, fixing, building and planning. It has been great to see them getting involved and taking pride in the space.



🌀 Orchard and Vegetable Production

We planted 30 lemon trees this term, donated by local **Kate Constable**, continuing to grow our orchard and build towards long-term food production at the school. Around the orchard, students mulched and cleaned up the fox-proof fence as we prepare to restart our free-range egg enterprise in the near future.

Our vegetable patch has had some important upgrades. Fencing has been repaired, irrigation installed, and in week 6 students will be planting kale, broccoli, cauliflower, snow peas, carrots, radish, beetroot, cos lettuce and iceberg lettuce.

A big thank you to **Platinum Ag Services**, Virginia for donating some of our seeds. We have some great summer crops planned.

🌀 Local Supply Opportunity

If you're a local business interested in buying fresh, school-grown produce are also welcome to get in touch!





Livestock

Our livestock program continues to grow.

- We have 8 show sheep, recently shorn and settling in well.
- We are preparing to welcome three show steers soon.
- Students have registered for the Sheep Expo in the April holidays.
- Six senior students are booked to attend the SA Beef School to further develop their skills and knowledge.

These experiences give students real industry exposure and help build confidence.



Sustainability and Winery

Students have started building a worm farm, with worms donated by **Alex from Microtek Organics**. We have also received half a tonne of worm castings to help improve our soils.

Work has begun in preparing the winery as we bring the school wine program back into action. Barrels have been donated and fruit is lined up for our first vintage in some time.

It has been a strong start to the term. Most importantly, students are building practical skills, confidence and ownership of the Agriculture program, while still having a lot of fun and fitting in the occasional dance break along the way.

Milly Hoffmann

Senior Leader

Agriculture, Science & Sustainability

Sponsorship Opportunities

We are seeking sponsorship to support our Ag Show Team.

This could include financial support, feed, equipment, uniforms, services or mentoring.

If you would like to support agricultural education at Oakbank School, please contact the school and direct it to Miss Hoffmann.



For Sale

2 X ALPACA FLEECES
MAKE AN OFFER



Oakbank Alpaca Wool for Sale

We've just shorn our school alpacas and their beautiful fleece is now available.

Soft, warm and perfect for spinning, felting, craft projects or even garden use.

If you're interested, make us an offer.

All proceeds support the Oakbank School Agriculture program and help us continue creating hands-on opportunities for students.

So don't alpaca your bags without some wool... come and grab some fleece and support the program.

dl.0762.agriculture@schools.sa.edu.au

For Sale \$25

PER LEMON TREE



Lemon Trees for Sale at Open Night

We're not sour about it...

These trees were grown and donated to the Oakbank School Agriculture program and are now available for our community to take home.

We have two varieties available: **Lisbon** and **Eureka**, for just **\$25 each**. It's a real bargain!

Pay and collect tonight. Don't miss this opportunity to grab a great tree and support the **Oakbank Agriculture program**.

Thank you to Kate Constable for helping us grow our agriculture program.

dl.0762.agriculture@schools.sa.edu.au



Understanding VPNs & Promoting Digital Safety

As part of our commitment to ensuring a safe and secure digital environment for our students, we would like to address the topic of the use of Virtual Private Networks (VPNs) by students at school and home.

What is a VPN?

A VPN, or Virtual Private Network, is a tool that allows users to create a secure and encrypted connection over the internet. It can be used to protect privacy, access region-restricted content, and bypass internet filters and restrictions. Popular VPNs include X-VPN, Hotspot Shield and built-in to browsers such as OperaGX.

Why are VPNs a concern?

While VPNs have legitimate uses, they can also pose significant risks, especially in an educational setting:

1. Bypassing Filters

Some students may use VPNs to bypass our school's internet filtering system, accessing content that is otherwise restricted. **Sometimes websites are filtered (blocked) for a learning and teaching reason, and others filters do block sites that are useful. To request access to a site, contact a teacher or IT. Don't just use a VPN.**

2. Inappropriate Content

VPNs can grant access to inappropriate or harmful material, which goes against our efforts to maintain a safe online environment. Safety and an environment that allows students to learn and flourish is our priority.

3. Cybersecurity Risks

Whilst advertised as a safe way of hiding your identity, not all VPNs are trustworthy. Some, especially free or unverified VPN services may compromise user data or introduce security vulnerabilities, and considerably slow your internet speed and reliability.

Our School Policy

When students and families are enrolled at the school, they are asked to read, sign and follow the school's ICT Cybersafety Acceptable Use Agreement.

1. Acceptable Use

The responsible and appropriate use of devices and services, including not accessing inappropriate content is and always has come under our ICT Cybersafety Acceptable Use Agreement. The use of VPNs or hotspots to bypass filters is explicitly prohibited in our newer agreements, and covered under the inappropriate content being accessed in any older agreements. Breaches of this agreement will be investigated and addressed. Consequences may be applied if the acceptable use agreement is breached.


2. Safety

We work with the Education Department to provide students and staff access to a safe and usable environment. Elements of this safety are the use of filtering technology (an ongoing and evolving area) and elements are education, behaviour and students learning to work under social expectations.

3. Digital citizenship

We educate students about responsible digital citizenship and the risks associated with the online environment. Knowing and following a code of conduct is a part of becoming a responsible digital citizen.



ICT Cybersafety Agreement Key Points



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Acceptable Use

Responsibility

-  Use devices responsibly & appropriately
-  Do not use VPNs to bypass filters at school.



Safety

Respect

-  Protect your personal information
-  Respect your own & others' passwords.

Digital Citizenship

Connection

-  Respect rules & be aware of risks
-  Honour the wellbeing & property of others.

Breaches of the ICT Cybersafety Agreement will be investigated & consequences may apply.

Parental Role

We kindly request that you discuss the following points with your children:

1. **Be aware**
Do you know if your child has a VPN installed on their device? Help your child understand what VPNs are and why they are not to be used at school – and decide if you wish to allow their use at home also.
2. **Safety**
Emphasise the importance of using their devices in a safe manner – protecting themselves and others – keep your passwords private, and respect other students' passwords! Use devices in an open and visible area if possible to create a friendly and open environment with oversight.
3. **Digital citizenship**
Encourage responsible online behaviour, including respecting rules, being aware of potential risks and honouring other's wellbeing and property – at home and at school.

Actions & Overview

Using a VPN is a breach of the Oakbank School Cybersafety User Agreement. We require students do not use VPNs at school in order to maintain a safe and accountable environment that allows students to learn and flourish. When detected or observed, we may ask students to uninstall VPN software on their devices.

Complying with this request is in line with our agreement, signed by both parents or guardians and students. There are generally very few legitimate reasons for VPN software to be installed on a student's device. You can tell if a VPN is installed by searching on the device for "VPN", "Hotspot shield" or "X-VPN" etc and seeing if VPN is installed. Some Browsers such as Opera-GX have limited built-in VPN functions.. ("VPN Settings" under System Settings is a normal part of Windows).

By working together, we can create a safer digital environment for our students. Thank you for your cooperation and ongoing support.



When things change... don't forget to tell us!

Moved house? 

Family circumstances different? 

New phone number or email?  

Medical details need updating? 

Telling us helps
keep us connected.



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