



12 August 2019

Dear parents and carers,

There have been some concerns in the national media around the privacy of students' email addresses and the ability for people outside of the education system to contact students via email or Google Hangouts.

This is of particular concern where students are given an automated first name.last name email address. This is not the case in ACT public schools. Each student's email address uses their unique student ID number. These email addresses are not searchable outside of the ACT Education domain, and security protocols are in place to reduce the risk of the public gaining access to this information.

We also use Google's industry leading spam detection and an extensive range of additional tools to strengthen security. Currently Google Hangouts is disabled for all schools unless explicitly approved for use by school principals. Only a small number of public high schools and colleges in the ACT have enabled this service.

This is however a timely reminder of the importance of making sure our children and young people know how to keep themselves safe online and when to ask for help. This is something that we need to work together on.

At school, we focus on developing safe and appropriate skills in the use of ICT, including cyber safety, acceptable online behaviours and being a well-rounded digital citizen. This includes the benefits and consequences of the use of ICT across their school and social life, so they are better equipped to understand when and where to use it.

There are tips and resources on the ACT Education Directorate website at www.education.act.gov.au/support-for-our-students/student-health-and-wellbeing/being-safe-online as well as on the eSafety Commissioner website at www.esafety.gov.au/parents to help you talk to and guide your child.

If you have any queries or questions, please speak to your child's teacher or myself on 6142 3100.

Kind regards,
Debbie Martens
Principal

