

## Digital Learning

# (Internet, Social Media and Digital Devices)

### PURPOSE

To ensure that all students and members of our school community understand:

- (a) our commitment to providing students with the opportunity to benefit from digital technologies to support and enhance learning and development at school
- (b) expected student behaviour when using digital technologies including the internet, social media, and digital devices (including computers, laptops, tablets)
- (c) the school's commitment to promoting safe, responsible and discerning use of digital technologies, and educating students on appropriate responses to any dangers or threats to wellbeing that they may encounter when using the internet and digital technologies
- (d) our school's policies and procedures for responding to inappropriate student behaviour on digital technologies and the internet
- (e) the various Department policies on digital learning, including social media, that our school follows and implements when using digital technology
- (f) our school prioritises the safety of students whilst they are using digital technologies

### SCOPE

This policy applies to all students and staff at Edithvale Primary School.

Staff use of technology is also governed by the following Department policies:

- [Acceptable Use Policy for ICT Resources](#)
- [Cybersafety and Responsible Use of Digital Technologies](#)
- [Digital Learning in Schools](#) and
- [Social Media Use to Support Student Learning](#).

Staff also follow our school's Acceptable Use Policy – see Appendix A.

Staff, volunteers and school councillors also need to adhere to codes of conduct relevant to their respective roles. These codes include:

- Edithvale Primary School's Child Safety Code of Conduct
- [The Victorian Teaching Profession Code of Conduct](#) (teaching staff)
- [Code of Conduct for Victorian Sector Employees](#) (staff)
- [Code of Conduct for Directors of Victorian Public Entities](#) (school councillors)

## DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this policy, “digital technologies” are defined as digital devices, tools, applications and systems that students and teachers use for learning and teaching; this includes Department-provided software and locally sourced devices, tools and systems.

## POLICY

### Vision for digital learning at our school

The use of digital technologies is a mandated component of the Victorian Curriculum F-10.

Safe and appropriate use of digital technologies, including the internet, apps, computers and tablets, can provide students with rich opportunities to support learning and development in a range of ways.

Through increased access to digital technologies, students can benefit from learning that is interactive, collaborative, personalised, engaging and transformative. Digital technologies enable our students to interact with and create high quality content, resources and tools. It also enables personalised learning tailored to students’ particular needs and interests and transforms assessment, reporting and feedback, driving new forms of collaboration and communication.

Edithvale Primary School believes that the use of digital technologies at school allows the development of valuable skills and knowledge and prepares students to thrive in our globalised and inter-connected world. Our school’s vision is to empower students to use digital technologies safely and appropriately to reach their personal best and fully equip them to contribute positively to society as happy, healthy young adults.

### Safe and appropriate use of digital technologies

Digital technologies, if not used appropriately, may present risks to users’ safety or wellbeing. At Edithvale Primary School, we are committed to educating all students to use digital technologies safely, equipping students with the skills and knowledge to navigate the digital world.

At Edithvale Primary School, we:

- use online sites and digital tools that support students’ learning, and focus our use of digital technologies on being learning-centred
- use digital technologies in the classroom for specific purpose with targeted educational or developmental aims
- supervise and support students using digital technologies for their schoolwork
- effectively and responsively address any issues or incidents that have the potential to impact on the wellbeing of our students
- have programs in place to educate our students to be safe, responsible and discerning users of digital technologies, including [insert details of specific programs]
- educate our students about digital issues such as privacy, intellectual property and copyright, and the importance of maintaining their own privacy and security online
- actively educate and remind students of our *Student Engagement* policy that outlines our School’s values and expected student behaviour, including online behaviours
- have an Acceptable Use Agreement outlining the expectations of students when using digital technologies for their schoolwork
- use clear protocols and procedures to protect students working in online spaces, which includes reviewing the safety and appropriateness of online tools and communities and removing offensive content at the earliest opportunity
- educate our students on appropriate responses to any dangers or threats to wellbeing that they may encounter when using the internet and other digital technologies
- provide a filtered internet service at school to block access to inappropriate content
- refer suspected illegal online acts to the relevant law enforcement authority for investigation

- support parents and carers to understand the safe and responsible use of digital technologies and the strategies that can be implemented at home through regular updates in our newsletter, information sheets, website/school portal and information sessions.

Distribution of school owned devices to students and personal student use of digital technologies at school will only be permitted where students and their parents/carers have completed a signed Acceptable Use Agreement.

It is the responsibility of all students to protect their own password and not divulge it to another person. If a student or staff member knows or suspects an account has been used by another person, the account holder must notify [insert relevant role/s, i.e. classroom teacher, the administration], immediately.

All messages created, sent or retrieved on the school's network are the property of the school. The school reserves the right to access and monitor all messages and files on the computer system, as necessary and appropriate. Communications including text and images may be required to be disclosed to law enforcement and other third parties without the consent of the sender.

Information on supervision arrangements for students engaging in digital learning activities is available in our Yard Duty and Supervision Policy.

### **Social media use**

Our school follows the Department's policy on [Social Media Use to Support Learning](#) to ensure social media is used safely and appropriately in student learning and to ensure appropriate parent notification occurs or, where required, consent is sought. Where the student activity is visible to the public, it requires consent.

In accordance with the Department's policy on social media, staff will not 'friend' or 'follow' a student on a personal social media account, or accept a 'friend' request from a student using a personal social media account unless it is objectively appropriate, for Edithvale Primary where the student is also a family member of the staff.

If a staff member of our school becomes aware that a student at the school is 'following' them on a personal social media account, Department policy requires the staff member to ask the student to 'unfollow' them, and to notify the school and/or parent or carer if the student does not do so.

### **Student behavioural expectations**

When using digital technologies, students are expected to behave in a way that is consistent with Edithvale Primary School's *Statement of Values, Student Wellbeing and Engagement* policy, and *Bullying Prevention* policy.

When a student acts in breach of the behaviour standards of our school community (including cyberbullying, using digital technologies to harass, threaten or intimidate, or viewing/posting/sharing of inappropriate or unlawful content), Edithvale Primary School will institute a staged response, consistent with our student engagement and behaviour policies.

Breaches of this policy by students can result in a number of consequences which will depend on the severity of the breach and the context of the situation. This includes:

- removal of network access privileges
- removal of email privileges
- removal of internet access privileges
- removal of printing privileges
- other consequences as outlined in the school's *Student Wellbeing and Engagement* and *Bullying Prevention* policies.

## COMMUNICATION

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways

Available publicly on our school's website <https://www.edithvaleps.vic.edu.au/>

- Included in staff induction and child safety training processes
- Discussed at staff briefings/meetings as required
- Included in our staff handbook/manual
- Included as annual reference in school newsletter
- Made available in hard copy from school administration upon request

## ANNEXURE A: ACCEPTABLE USE AGREEMENT

### Acceptable Use Agreement

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##### School Profile Statement

At Edithvale Primary School we support the right of all members of the school community to access safe and inclusive learning environments, including digital and online spaces. This form outlines the School's roles and responsibilities in supporting safe digital learning, as well as the expected behaviours we have of our students when using digital or online spaces.

Mobile phones are banned for all students at Victorian government schools from Term 1 2020, with some exceptions.

At our School we:

- Have a Student Engagement Policy that outlines our School's values and expected student behaviour. This Policy includes online behaviours;
- Have programs in place to educate our students to be safe and responsible users of digital technologies. Being an eSmart school we conduct lessons from Foundation to Year 6 on being cyber smart during ICT lessons and during the wellbeing hour on a Thursday afternoon, using the government program Cyber teach toolkit 'safe and responsible use of digital technologies' which provides age appropriate Cyber safety lessons;
- Educate our students about digital issues such as online privacy, intellectual property and copyright;
- Supervise and support students using digital technologies in the classroom;
- Use clear protocols and procedures to protect students working in online spaces. This includes reviewing the safety and appropriateness of online tools and communities, removing offensive content at earliest opportunity, and other measures;
  - See: [Duty of Care and Supervision](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/bullystoppers/Pages/prindutycare.aspx)  
(www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/bullystoppers/Pages/prindutycare.aspx)
- Provide a filtered internet service to block inappropriate content. We acknowledge, however, that full protection from inappropriate content cannot be guaranteed
  - Mobile phones are banned for all students at Victorian government schools from Term 1 2020, with some exceptions.
- Use online sites and digital tools that support students' learning;
- Address issues or incidents that have the potential to impact on the wellbeing of our students;
- Refer suspected illegal online acts to the relevant Law Enforcement authority for investigation;
- Support parents and care-givers to understand safe and responsible use of digital technologies and the strategies that can be implemented at home. The following resources provide current information from both the Department of Education & Training and The Children's eSafety Commission:
  - [Bullystoppers Parent Interactive Learning Modules](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/bullystoppers/Pages/parentmodules.aspx)  
(www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/bullystoppers/Pages/parentmodules.aspx)
  - [iParent | Office of the Children's eSafety Commissioner](#)

## Safe, Responsible and Behaviour

When I use digital technologies and the internet I **communicate respectfully** by:

- always thinking and checking that what I write or post is polite and respectful.
- being kind to my classmates and thinking about how the things I do or say online might make them feel.
- not sending mean or bullying messages or forwarding them to other people.
- creating and presenting my own work, and if I copy something from online, letting my audience know by sharing the website link to acknowledge the creator.
- Not downloading unauthorised programs on school devices, including games.

When I use digital technologies I **protect personal information** by being aware that my full name, photo, birthday, address and phone number is personal information and is not to be shared online. This means I:

- protect my friends' information in the same way.
- protecting the privacy of others by never posting or forwarding their personal details or images without their consent.
- protect my passwords and don't share them with anyone except my parents and teachers (as needed).
- only ever join spaces with my parents or teacher's guidance and permission.
- never answer questions online that ask for my personal information.
- know not to post three or more pieces of identifiable information about myself.

When I use digital technologies I **respect myself and others** by thinking about what I share online. This means I:

- stop to think about what I post or share online, knowing that this is a personal reflection of who I am and can influence what people think of me.
- use spaces or sites that are appropriate, and if I am not sure I ask a trusted adult for help.
- Understand there are terms and conditions of use for any digital or online tool (e.g. age restrictions, parental consent requirements) <https://esafety.gov.au/esafety-information/games-apps-and-social-networking>.
- do not attempt to log into the network with a user name or password of another student.
- speak to a trusted adult if I see something that makes me feel upset or if I need help.
- speak to a trusted adult if I personally feel uncomfortable or unsafe online, or if I see others participating in unsafe, inappropriate or hurtful online behaviour.
- don't deliberately search for something rude or violent.
- turn off or close the screen if I see something I don't like and tell a trusted adult.
- am careful with the equipment I use.
- do not interfere with network systems and security or the data of another user.

At school we/I have:

- discussed ways to be a safe, responsible and ethical user of digital technologies.
- presented my ideas around the ways that I can be a smart, safe, responsible and ethical user of digital technologies.

I will use this knowledge at school and everywhere I use digital technologies

My ideas on safe and responsible behaviour

When I use digital technologies I **communicate respectfully**. This means I:

(write or draw...)

When I use digital technologies I **protect personal information**. This means I:

(write or draw...)

When I use digital technologies I **respect myself and others**. This means I:

(write or draw...)

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

I understand and agree to comply with the terms of acceptable use and expected standards of behaviour set out within this agreement.

I understand that there are actions and consequences established within the school's Student Engagement Policy if I do not behave appropriately.

Student name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Student signature: \_\_\_\_\_

School contact name for support and /or agreement: **Hayley Grindley or Britt Trotter** or your child(s) teacher.

School contact no.: (03) 9772 1393

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	June 2022
Consultation	School Council 14 June 2022 School Community via Compass and website June 17, 24, July 15 2022
Approved by	Principal James Whitla
Next scheduled review date	June 2024, noting that the mandatory review cycle for this policy 2 years