



Portland South Primary School

DIGITAL LEARNING Policy

(Internet, Social Media & 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 [including our 1-to-1 personal device program or insert other appropriate programs as relevant to your 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

SCOPE

This policy applies to all students and staff at Portland South 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, volunteers and school councillors also need to adhere to codes of conduct relevant to their respective roles. These codes include:

- Portland South 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.

Portland South 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 Portland South Primary School, we are committed to educating all students to use digital technologies in ways that respect the dignity of ourselves and others and promote full flourishing for all, equipping students with the skills and knowledge to navigate the digital world.

At Portland South 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 eSmart.
- 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 and online forums.

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.

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.

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 example 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 Portland South 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), Portland South 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 internet access privileges
- removal of printing privileges
- other consequences as outlined in the school's *Student Wellbeing and Engagement* and *Bullying Prevention* policies.

REVIEW CYCLE

This policy is scheduled for review in 2024

This policy was last ratified by School Council in 2021

APPENDIX: ACCEPTABLE USE AGREEMENT

I agree to use the internet, ICT and social networking at our school in a responsible manner for purposes stated by my teacher.

If I find myself in unsuitable locations I will immediately click on the home or back button and inform my teacher.

When working on the internet I will:

- Only work on the web for purposes specified by my teacher or as appropriate to my work.
- Not give out information such as my surname, address, telephone number, or parents' work address/telephone number.
- Never send a person my picture without first checking my teacher or parent if at home.
- Always check with the teacher before uploading a film to You-tube.
- Always have my teacher's permission before sending e-mail.
- Compose e-mail, blog, wiki, twitter etc. messages using only language I understand is acceptable in my school.
- Not respond to any messages that are unpleasant or that make me feel uncomfortable in any way. It is not my fault if I get a message like that.
- Notify the teacher if I receive anything unsuitable.
- I will not use material from other web sites unless I have permission from the person who created the material. If I am unsure I will check with my teacher.
- Be aware that my internet usage may be supervised at any time.
- Not use the internet to frighten or annoy or bully other people.
- Follow school guidelines and procedures when preparing materials for publication on the web.
- Respect all my responsibilities for ICT use and the internet as outlined in the policy.

I understand that breaches of the rules will see me lose my internet/email access rights for a period of time determined by my teacher and/or the ICT coordinator and/or the Principal. The consequences from the Student Engagement Policy apply with increasing consequences in accordance with the severity and frequency of the breach.

Student Name: _____

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

Date: _____

Student Name: _____

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

Date: _____

I have discussed this with my child/children and will support them in acceptable and safe use of ICT. Internet and social networking.

Parent Name _____

Parent Signature _____

Date _____