



DIGITAL LEARNING (INTERNET, SOCIAL MEDIA AND DIGITAL DEVICES)



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact the WHPS office.

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 3-6, 1-to-1 school devices grade 2, 1-to-2 devices Prep-1.
- (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 Watsonia Heights Primary 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 Watsonia Heights 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 Staff Acceptable Use Policy.

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

- Watsonia Heights Primary School 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 technology at our school

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

Watsonia Heights Primary School understands that the safe and appropriate use of digital technologies including the internet, apps, computers and tablets 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 enhanced learning that is interactive, collaborative, personalised and engaging. 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.

Watsonia Heights 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 to reach their personal best and fully equip them to contribute positively to society as happy, healthy young adults.

iPads at Watsonia Heights Primary School

Classes from Grades 3-6 at Watsonia Heights Primary School are facilitated by the use of iPads. Students in these year levels must bring a charged iPad to school each day to be used during class time for different learning activities.

Our school operates a Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) program, which means students must bring their own purchased or leased iPad with them to school each day. **Watsonia Heights Primary School has made special arrangements with JB HiFi who offer discounted prices for the lease or purchase of devices for our students. Watsonia Heights Primary School can refer parents to government or community support programs that may help them if they wish to purchase a device for their child to own.**

Students are required to have their own iPad that must:

- come to school fully charged each morning
- be brought to school in a labelled protective case
- have at least 10 GB of storage
- operate on version High Sierra 10.0 or later
- have the schools required Apps as listed on the student Ipad App list

Please note that our school does not have insurance to cover accidental damage to students’ iPads, and parents/carers are encouraged to consider obtaining their own insurance for their child’s iPad.

Watsonia Heights Primary School has in place arrangements to support families who may be experiencing long or short-term hardship to access iPads for schoolwork.

Students, parents and carers who would like more information or assistance regarding our BYOD program are encouraged to contact the Assistant Principal- Tony Ryan.

See Appendix below for documents relating to the 1:1 Ipad program.

Safe and appropriate use of digital technologies

Digital technology, if not used appropriately, may present risks to users' safety or wellbeing. At Watsonia Heights Primary School, we are committed to educating all students to be safe, responsible and discerning in the use of digital technologies, equipping them with skills and knowledge to navigate the digital age.

At Watsonia Heights Primary School, we:

- use online sites and digital tools that support students' learning, and focus our use of digital technologies on being learning-centred
- restrict the use of digital technologies in the classroom to specific uses with targeted educational or developmental aims
- supervise and support students using digital technologies in the classroom
- 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 promoting safe, responsible and discerning use of digital technologies, including eSafety and other digital safety incursions.
- educate our students about digital issues such as online privacy, intellectual property and copyright, and the importance of maintaining their own privacy 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 technology at school
- use clear protocols and procedures to protect students working in online spaces, which includes reviewing the safety and appropriateness of online tools and communities, removing offensive content at 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 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 safe and responsible use of digital technologies and the strategies that can be implemented at home through regular updates in our newsletter and annual information sheets

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. One exception to this is that students confidentially share their passcodes with their classroom teacher. If a student or staff member knows or suspects an account has been used by another person, the account holder must notify the classroom teacher 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.

Our school uses the learning platform Seesaw for students to showcase their work, where teachers, parents and peers can provide appropriate feedback and comments on the work undertaken in or relating to our generalist and specialist classes. Parents are welcome to contact the Principal if they have any questions or concerns about students participating in this education showcase.

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 Watsonia Heights Primary School's *Statement of Values* (under review), *Student Wellbeing and Engagement* policy, and *Bullying Prevention* policy. (updated 2022)

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), Watsonia Heights Primary School will institute a staged response, consistent with our policies and the Department's *Student Engagement and Inclusion Guidelines*.

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 ICT and internet privileges for a period of time
- removal of printing privileges
- education around the importance of cyber safety and behaving appropriately online
- 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
- Included in staff induction [and child safety training](#) processes
- Discussed at staff briefings/meetings as required
- Included in our staff handbook/manual
- Discussed at parent information nights/sessions
- Included in student diaries so that it is easily accessible to parents, carers and students
- Included in transition and enrolment packs
- Included as annual reference in school newsletter
- Discussed at student forums/through communication tools
- Made available in hard copy from school administration upon request

Mobile Phones

In accordance with the Department’s Mobile Phone policy, students are required to hand over the device at the start of class to the teacher for safe storage and for it to be returned at the end of school day.

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	2020
Consultation	This policy was reviewed by members of WHPS school council on November 2022
Approved by	Principal and School Council November 2022
Next scheduled review date	November2024

ANNEXURE A: [ACCEPTABLE USE AGREEMENT P TO 4](#)

ANNEXURE B: [ACCEPTABLE USE AGREEMENT 5 TO 6](#)