

## DIGITAL LEARNING (INTERNET, SOCIAL MEDIA AND DIGITAL DEVICES) POLICY

### 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 at South Yarra Primary School

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

- South Yarra Primary School's Child Safety Code of Conduct
- [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 'South Yarra Primary School Acceptable Use Policy' (see Annexure A: page 5 herein)

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

- South Yarra 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.

South Yarra 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 South Yarra 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 South Yarra 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 Life Education and eSafety Classroom Resources
- 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 the classroom teacher immediately. Students are encouraged to memorise their passwords.

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.

In 2019, the Minister for Education James Merlino announced mobile phones were banned for all students at Victorian state primary and secondary schools from Term 1 2020. The aim of this policy is to reduce distraction, tackle cyber bullying and improve learning outcomes for all students. This year we are seeing more students across the school wearing smart watches. Please note we do not encourage these watches to be worn and would prefer they remain at home for the reasons outlined by the Minister for Education.

At South Yarra Primary parents of students who carry a mobile phone / technology devices e.g. smart watch need to inform the Principal or Assistant Principals in writing as to why their child requires the device. If approved, cellular devices (mobile phones, 4G tablets and smart watches) are not to be used by students during the school day. Any communication with your child during school hours, should be done via the office. Please refer to our school website to view our mobile phone policy. This policy also covers devices used for communication / filming such as smart watches.

### **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.

South Yarra Primary School does not use Social Media Platforms.

South Yarra Primary School uses the following online learning platforms:

- Seesaw
- Sunshine on Line
- Studyladder for student learning
- epic!
- Class Dojo
- Tynker
- codeSpark
- NAPLAN online

Parents are welcome to contact [south.yarra.ps@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:south.yarra.ps@education.vic.gov.au) if they have any questions or concerns about students participating in these forums

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 South Yarra Primary School's *Statement of Values, Student Wellbeing and Engagement* policy, and *Bullying Prevention* policy, *South Yarra Primary School's Approach to Behaviour Management*.

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),

South Yarra 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 and the *SYPS Mobile Phone Policy*.

## **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
- Referred to in our staff handbook/manual
- Discussed at parent information nights/sessions
- Included in transition and enrolment packs
- Included as annual reference in the school newsletter
- Made available in hard copy from school administration upon request
- Discussed at student forums

## **POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL**

Policy last reviewed	June 2022
Consultation	ICT Team Education Committee School Council
Approved by	Principal and School Council – June 2022
Next scheduled review date	June 2024 – the mandatory cycle is every 2 years

## ANNEXURE A: ACCEPTABLE USE AGREEMENT

Acceptable Use Agreement follows.



# Student ICT Acceptable Use Agreement 2022

*This ICT Acceptable Use Agreement describes student standard expected behaviours when using digital technologies. Teachers are expected to work through this document with age-appropriate discussions and experiences that connect students and to the expected behaviours outlined below.*

*This is to be completed before 4 February 2022 and as required throughout the year when new students arrive.*

### Safe, responsible and behaviour

When I use digital technologies I **communicate respectfully** by:

- always thinking and checking that what I write or post is polite and respectful
- being kind to my friends and classmates and thinking about how the things I do or say online might make them feel (*ask students to reflect on how they would 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.

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
- protect my passwords and don't share them with anyone except my parent
- 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
- use spaces or sites that are appropriate, and if I am not sure I ask a trusted adult for help
- protect my friends' full names, birthdays, school names, addresses and phone numbers because this is their personal information
- 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 someone is unkind to me or if I know someone else is upset or scared
- 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.

**At school we/I:**

- regularly discuss ways to be a safe, responsible and ethical user of digital technologies.
- present my ideas around the ways that I can be a smart, safe, responsible and ethical user of digital technologies.
- alert an adult if anything unfamiliar appears on my screen.

## 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...)

*I, \_\_\_\_\_ will use this knowledge at school and everywhere I use digital technology. I will be polite, safe, responsible and ethical user of Digital Technologies. I will ask a trusted adult for help whenever I am unsure or feel unsafe.*

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

