



Dingley Primary School

Digital Learning Policy

(Internet, Social Media and Digital Devices)

Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please Dingley Primary School on 9551 3555.



PURPOSE

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

- our commitment to providing students with the opportunity to benefit from digital technologies to support and enhance learning and development at school
- expected student behaviour when using digital technologies including the internet, social media, and digital devices (including computers, laptops, tablets)
- 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
- our school's policies and procedures for responding to inappropriate student behaviour on digital technologies and the internet
- the various Department policies on digital learning, including social media, that our school follows and implements when using digital technology
- our school prioritises the safety of students whilst they are using digital technologies

SCOPE

This policy applies to all students and staff at Dingley 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:

- [Dingley 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 technology at our school

Dingley Primary School understands that 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



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students' particular needs and interests and transforms assessment, reporting and feedback, driving new forms of collaboration and communication.

Dingley 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 technology, if not used appropriately, may present risks to users' safety or wellbeing. At Dingley 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 Dingley 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
- 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.

The Acceptable Use Agreement is signed annually at the commencement of each year. The Parent Acceptable Use is on Compass, the Student Acceptable Use is completed in class by each student.

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 home group teacher, and/or the principal as appropriate, 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.



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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 Dingley 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), Dingley 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 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 on our school's Compass portal
- made available in hard copy from school office upon request

Related policies

- [Bullying Prevention and Response](#)
- [Cybersafety and Responsible Use of Digital Technologies](#)
- [Duty of Care](#)
- [Mobile Phones — Student Use](#)
- [Parent Payments](#)
- [Personal Devices — Access](#)
- [Photographing, Filming and Recording Students](#)
- [Privacy and Information Sharing](#)
- [Social Media Use to Support Student Learning](#)



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POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	March 2024
Approved by	Principal and School Council
Next scheduled review date	March 2026



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ANNEXURE A: ACCEPTABLE USE AGREEMENTS

Acceptable Use Agreement – Parents/Carers

At the start of each school year the following agreement is agreed to online via Compass for each student by the parent. The agreement is setup as an event in the Compass system.

ACCEPTABLE USER AGREEMENT

Description/Educative Purpose:

Cybersafety is an important issue for all students. By the time students arrive at secondary school most will already be regular and active users of digital technologies including social media tools such as Facebook.

Part A: Rationale

Dingley Primary School recognises the need for students to be safe and responsible users of digital technologies. We believe that explicitly teaching students about safe and responsible online behaviours is essential and is best taught in partnership with parents/carers. **We strongly encourage parents/carers to work with us and reinforce this behaviour at home** (the behaviour outlined in Part B: Safe and Responsible Behaviour).

Dingley Primary School's approach to prevention is based on teaching positive behaviours and the use of logical consequences to address both appropriate and inappropriate behaviour. The foundation of our positive school culture is the active participation of all members of the school community so they achieve excellence, build resilience, act responsibly, demonstrate respect and exercise inclusiveness.

At Dingley Primary School we:

- support the rights of all members of the school community to engage in and promote a safe, inclusive and supportive learning environment
- have a Student Engagement Policy that clearly states our school's values and the expected standards of student behaviour, including actions and consequences for inappropriate behaviour
- educate our students to be safe and responsible users of digital technologies
- raise our students' awareness of issues such as online privacy, intellectual property and copyright
- supervise students when using digital technologies for educational purposes
- provide a filtered Internet service but acknowledge that full protection from inappropriate content can never be guaranteed
- respond to issues or incidents that have the potential to impact on the wellbeing of our students
- know that some online activities are illegal and as such we are required to report this to the police
- support parents/carers to understand the importance of safe and responsible use of digital technologies, the potential issues that surround their use and strategies that they can implement at home to support their child
- provide parents/carers with a copy of this agreement.



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Additional event details:

Part B: Safe and Responsible Behaviour

When your child uses digital technologies I agree to encourage him/her to be a safe, responsible and ethical user at all times by:

Communicating respectfully:

- using the school's digital technologies only for the intended educational purposes as specified by his/her teacher
- respecting others and communicating with them in a supportive manner; never writing or participating in online bullying (for example, forwarding messages and supporting others in harmful, inappropriate or hurtful online behaviours)
- abiding by copyright and intellectual property regulations. If necessary, encourage my child to request permission before using images, text, audio and video and cite references

Protecting personal information:

- protecting his/her privacy; not giving out personal details, including full name, telephone number, address, passwords and images
- protecting the privacy of others; never posting or forwarding their personal details or images without their consent
- carefully considering the content that is uploaded or posted online; this is often viewed as a personal reflection of who we are
- investigating the terms and conditions of use (e.g. age restrictions, parental consent requirements). If his/her understanding is unclear encourage him/her to seek further explanation from a trusted adult

Looking after myself and others:

- talking to a teacher if he/she personally feel uncomfortable or unsafe online, or if he/she sees others participating in unsafe, inappropriate or hurtful online behaviours
- confirming that he/she meets the stated terms and conditions; completing the required registration processes with factual responses about personal details
- handling all digital devices with care and notifying a teacher if they are damaged or require attention
- not interfering with network systems and security, the data of another user or attempting to log into the network with a user name or password of another user (student or staff member)
- not bringing to school or downloading unauthorised programs, including games.

In addition, when I use my personal mobile phone, I agree to be a safe, responsible and ethical user at all times, by:

- respecting others and communicating with them in a supportive manner; never verbally or in writing participating in bullying (for example, harassing phone calls/text messages, supporting others in harmful, inappropriate or hurtful online behaviours by forwarding messages)
- securely storing the device in a safe location held by a teacher during school hours (except for approved learning purposes)
- respecting the privacy of others; only taking photos or recording sound or video at school when I have formal consent or it is part of an approved lesson
- obtaining appropriate (written) consent from individuals who appear in images or sound and video recordings before forwarding them to other people or posting/uploading them online.

Part C: Parent Commitment

As parent/carer of the above student, I:

- will encourage my child to use digital technologies safely and responsibly, at school and at home, as outlined in this Acceptable Use Agreement
- agree that in the event of my child causing deliberate damage to computer property, I agree to reimburse the school for repairs or replacement of such property.
- I understand and agree that my child will sign an Acceptable Use Agreement in class, this document will be held by the teacher for the duration of the school year.



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STUDENT ACCEPTABLE USE AGREEMENT

At the start of each school year the following agreement is discussed in the class with the teacher and student. Each student signs the agreement, the agreement is kept by the teacher for the duration of the year.

Student Acceptable Use Agreement – Digital Technologies

At Dingley 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.

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 (*Schools - Include any specific programs or approaches the school undertakes*);
- 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
(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
- 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
(www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/bullystoppers/Pages/parentmodules.aspx)
 - iParent | Office of the Children's eSafety Commissioner
(<https://www.esafety.gov.au/education-resources/iparent>)



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This section describes standard expected behaviours when using digital technologies. It is recommended that teachers work through the behaviours with students before the AUA is sent home for parent discussion and agreement. Inclusion of student voice will increase ownership and relevance. Modify text to support school arrangements.

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 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.



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This section can be used with students to express their own ideas about safe, responsible and ethical behaviour after working through the discussion points. It may be included as part of the final Acceptable Use Agreement sent home to parents for discussion and agreement.

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...)



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This certificate is a record of a student's agreement to be a safe, responsible and ethical user of digital technologies. Provide after working through the discussion points and student's own ideas. It may be retained as part of the Acceptable Use Agreement sent home to parents and could also be saved as a screen background on a student's personal device.

Student agreement/licence

Student agreement/licence

(principal or teacher)

acknowledges the commitment of

(student)

to being a polite, safe, responsible and ethical user of digital technologies.

As a student I continue to learn to use digital technologies safely and responsibly.
I will ask a trusted adult for help whenever I am unsure or feel unsafe.

Student's signature

Teacher/Principal's signature

Date