



# Falls Creek Primary School

## Digital Learning Policy (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 and 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 that our school follows and implements.

### Scope

This policy applies to all students at Falls Creek 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](#).

### 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.

Falls Creek 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 Falls Creek 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 Falls Creek 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 school work
- 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 the eSmart program which is included in the curriculum during Term 3, and re-enforcing the Safe and Responsible Behaviours that are included in the Acceptable Use Agreement
- 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.

Distribution of school owned devices to students (for example for home learning during a pandemic) 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 their 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.

## Social Media Use

Falls Creek Primary School does not utilise social media platforms.

## Student behavioural expectations

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

When a student acts in breach of the behavior standards of our school community (including cyberbullying, using digital technologies to harass, threaten or intimidate, or viewing/posting/sharing of inappropriate or unlawful content), Falls Creek 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. These include:

- 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 Policy* and *Bullying Prevention Policy*

## Review Cycle

This policy was last updated in May 2021 and is scheduled for review in April 2023.

## Appendix A: Acceptable Use Agreement (AUA) - Information for parents and students

At Falls Creek 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 agreement outlines the school's roles and responsibilities in supporting safe digital learning, as well as the expected behaviours of our students when using digital or online spaces.

### School roles and responsibilities

At our school we:

- Have a *Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy* that outlines our school's values and expected student behaviour, including actions and consequences for inappropriate behaviour. This policy includes online behaviours.
- 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 the earliest opportunity. See [Duty of Care and Supervision \(www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/bullystoppers/Pages/prindutycare.aspx\)](http://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/carers 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 \(www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/bullystoppers/Pages/parentmodules.aspx\)](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/bullystoppers/Pages/parentmodules.aspx)
  - [iParent | Office of the Children's eSafety Commissioner \(https://www.esafety.gov.au/education-resources/iparent\)](https://www.esafety.gov.au/education-resources/iparent)

### Safe and responsible behaviour expectations for students

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
- 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 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 parents
- only ever join spaces with my parent's or teacher's guidance and permission
- never answer questions online that ask for my personal information
- know not to post 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 make 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.