

Mt Eliza 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 contact Mt Eliza Primary School Ph: 9787 1385.

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 including our Year 5 & 6 Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) program.
- expected student behaviour when using digital technologies including the internet 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 Mt Eliza 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 Acceptable Use Policy.

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

- Mt Eliza 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.

Mt Eliza 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 interconnected 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.

Personal Devices at Mt Eliza Primary School

Mt Eliza Primary School operates a Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) program in Years 5 and 6. Classes at our school are delivered with the use of iPads/laptops and desktop computers.

Parents/carers are requested to purchase or provide a device for their child to bring to school. Mt Eliza Primary School has made special arrangements with Learning With Technologies who offer discounted prices for purchase of devices for our students. Parents are provided with the minimum specifications of digital devices if they wish to purchase through an alternate supplier, please see BYOD Handbook available on our website.

Students in Years 5 and 6 are invited to bring their own device to school each day to be used during class time for different learning activities. When bringing their own device to school, students should ensure that it:

- is fully charged each morning;
- is brought to school in a protective case; and
- has the required charger brought to school.



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

Students, parents and carers who would like more information or assistance regarding our BYOD program are encouraged to contact Mt Eliza Primary School Office on 9787 1385.

Safe and appropriate use of digital technologies

Digital technologies, if not used appropriately, may present risks to users' safety or wellbeing. At Mt Eliza 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 Mt Eliza 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 the Cyber Safety Project and via the curriculum program delivered through the Digital Technologies section of the Victorian Curriculum;
- 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 (see Annexure A) 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; and
- 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 via school communication methods and access to the Cyber Safety parent webinars.

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 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.

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 Mt Eliza 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), Mt Eliza 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.



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
- Made available in hard copy from school administration upon request

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	May 2024
Consultation	Education Committee meeting May 2024, as a sub committee of the School Council and school community.
Approved by	Principal and School Council June 2024
Next scheduled review date	June 2026

ANNEXURE A: ACCEPTABLE USE AGREEMENT

Acceptable Use Agreement



Digital Learning



Acceptable Use Agreement

At Mt Eliza 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 we have of our students when using digital or online spaces.

At our School we:

- Have a Student Wellbeing and 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;
- Educate our students about digital issues such as online privacy, intellectual property and copyright;
- Supervise and support students using digital technologies for school-directed learning;
- 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;

Duty of Care and Supervision

www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/cybersafety/policy

- Provide a filtered internet service, at school, 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 caregivers 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
 eSafetyParent | Office of the Children's eSafety Commissioner <https://www.esafety.gov.au/education-resources/iparent>

STUDENT DECLARATION

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 is not to be shared online. This means I:

- protect my friends' and other people's information in the same way;
- will not upload any images or videos where our school uniform is visible via social media or online video platforms/forums;
- protect my passwords and don't share them with anyone except my parents and teachers;
- only ever join spaces with my parents or teacher's guidance and permission eg chat and gaming forums;
- never answer questions online that ask for my personal information;
- know not to post three or more pieces of identifiable information about myself.



Digital Learning

Acceptable Use Agreement



- 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;
 - will not attempt to log into the network or online service with a username or password of another person;
 - will not treat others in harmful, inappropriate or hurtful ways online;
 - speak to a trusted adult if I see something or someone that makes me feel upset online, or if I need help;
 - will only take and share photographs or sound or video recordings when others are aware the recording is taking place and have provided their explicit consent;
 - only use spaces or sites that are appropriate, and if I am not sure I ask a trusted adult for help;
 - will not share or post the link (or password) to video conferencing meetings with others;
 - speak to a trusted adult if I see others participating in unsafe, inappropriate or hurtful online behaviour;
 - meet the stated terms and conditions for any digital or online tool which includes age restrictions;
 - will not 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.

SIGNATURE OF AGREEMENT:

I understand and agree to comply with the terms of acceptable use and expected standards of behaviour set out within this agreement. This Acceptable Usage Agreement applies when digital devices and technologies are being used at school, for school-directed learning, during school excursions, at camps and extra-curricular activities.

I understand that there are actions and consequences established within the school's Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy if I do not behave appropriately. I understand that breaches of this policy can result in a number of consequences which will depend on the severity of the breach and the context of the situation. This may include removal of digital technology privileges within the school.

Student Name:

Student Signature:

Parent/Carer Name:

Parent/Carer Signature: Date: