



WILLOWBANK
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 including our BYOD iPad program.
- (b) expected student behaviour when using digital technologies including the internet, social media, and digital devices (including iPads).
- (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.
- (f) our school prioritises the safety of students whilst they are using digital technologies

SCOPE

This policy applies to all students and staff at Willowbank 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:

- Willowbank 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.

Willowbank 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.

Personal Devices at Willowbank Primary School

Willowbank Primary School operates a Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) program (introduced in 2023).

Parents/carers are invited to purchase a device for their child to bring to school. Willowbank Primary School has made special arrangements with JB HiFi who offer discounted prices for the purchase of devices for our students. Willowbank 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, rather than use what is provided for free by the school.

Students 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
- has at least 64 GB of storage
- operates on OS version 14 or later

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 the Principal or Assistant Principal.

Safe and appropriate use of digital technologies

Digital technologies, if not used appropriately, may present risks to users' safety or wellbeing. At Willowbank 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 Willowbank 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 school visits from the Victorian Police.
- 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 Wellbeing and Engagement Policy that outlines our school's values and expected student behaviour.
- 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, Compass 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 Home Group 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 has established a Facebook page to showcase our students learning and key events where the community can provide appropriate comments. Parents and carers are welcome to contact our Principal or Assistant Principal if they have any questions or concerns about students and their work being promoted through this forum.

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 Willowbank 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), Willowbank 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.*

Supervision of student in emergency operating environments

In the event of any mandatory period of remote or flexible learning our school will follow the operations guidance issued by the Department.

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 processes
- discussed at staff briefings/meetings as required

- discussed at parent information nights/sessions
- included in year 3 -6 enrolment packs
- made available in hard copy from school administration upon request.

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	July, 2022
Consultation	School Council and Community via Website
Approved by	Principal and School Council School Council August 2023
Next scheduled review date	July, 2024



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact Willowbank Primary School on 03 5460 1122.

ANNEXURE A: ACCEPTABLE USE AGREEMENT

Acceptable Use Agreement

Safe and responsible behaviours 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 (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 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.

When I use digital technologies, I respect technology and school equipment by handling school resources with care. This means I:

- ensure that my devices are fully charged at the beginning of each day.
- carry devices carefully and put them away when I have finished using them.
- handle my devices carefully to minimise the risk of damage.

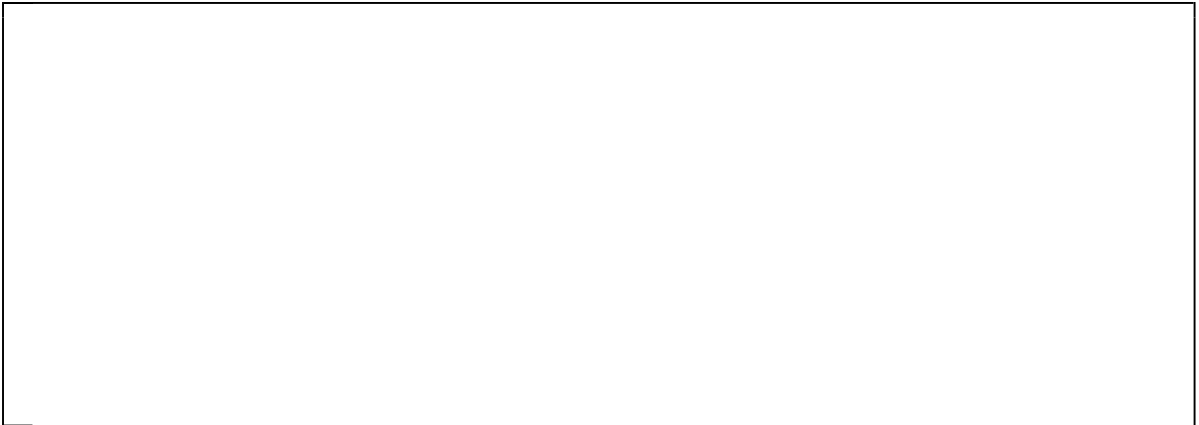
At school we have:

- discussed ways to be a safe, responsible and ethical users of digital technologies.
- presented my ideas around the ways that I can be a smart, safe, responsible and ethical user of digital technologies.

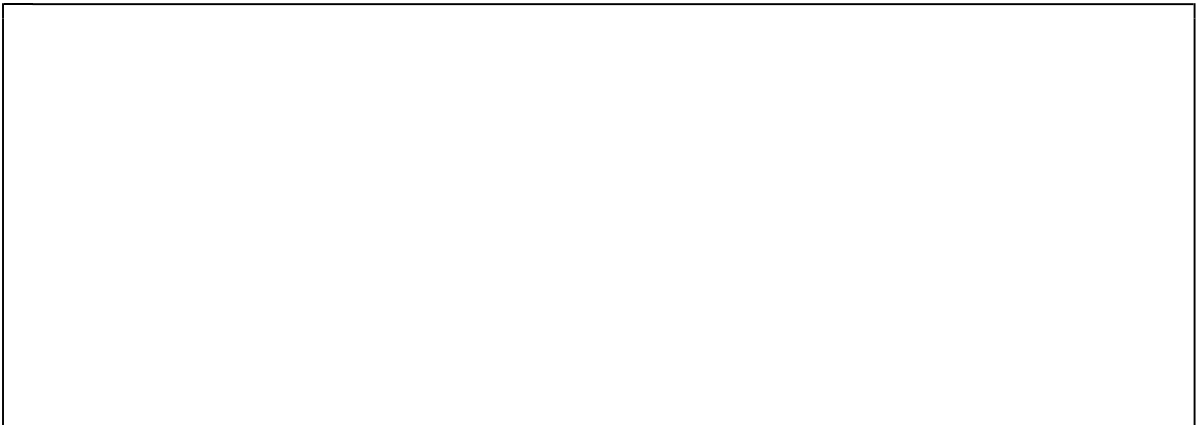
I will use this knowledge at school and everywhere I use digital technologies

My ideas on safe and responsible behaviour – use words and/or pictures

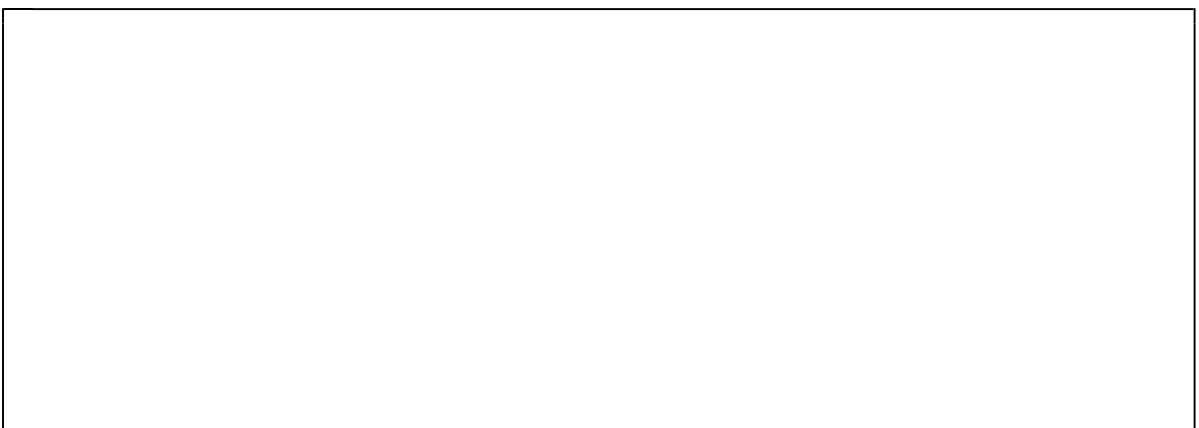
When I use digital technologies, I communicate respectfully. This means I:



When I use digital technologies, I protect personal information. This means I:



When I use digital technologies, I respect myself and others. This means I:



Student name: _____

Student Signature: _____