



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 Mandama Primary School.

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, 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 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 Mandama 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 technology 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.

Mandama 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.

Devices at Mandama Primary School

Mandama Primary School operates a 1:1 BYOD device learning model for years 3-6. An information evening will be organised every year for parents/carers of students in Year 2. The program booklet presented at the evening includes details regarding device options and information on how the program operates at Mandama Primary School.

iPads and Chromebooks are used to enhance the teaching and learning program at Mandama Primary School. Students in years 3-6 must bring a charged device to school each day to be used during class time for different learning activities.

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.

Mandama Primary School has in place arrangements to support families who may be experiencing long or short-term hardship to access devices for schoolwork. We also have a number of spare devices that can be accessed by students during school time.

Students, parents and carers who would like more information or assistance regarding our program (Years 3-6) are encouraged to contact the principal or office. 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.

Safe and appropriate use of digital technologies

Digital technologies, if not used appropriately, may present risks to users' safety or wellbeing. At Mandama 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 Mandama Primary School:

- we use online sites and digital tools that support students' learning, and focus our use of digital technologies on being learning-centred
- parent/carers will be connected with classroom teachers via Dojo and by contacting the school office. Parents and students are not to use Messenger (or other apps) on iPads, phones or watches to contact each other, or anyone else during school hours. This includes use of Airdrop unless specifically directed to use it by a teacher
- we restrict the use of digital technologies in the classroom to specific uses with targeted educational or developmental aims.
- students are not permitted to record any other person via video or audio without permission from the teacher and the person involved.
- we supervise and support students using digital technologies in the classroom
- we effectively and responsively address any issues or incidents that have the potential to impact on the wellbeing of our students
- we have programs in place to educate our students to be promoting safe, responsible and discerning use of digital technologies, including Cyber Safety awareness program for both students and parent/carers with Leading Senior Constable Robbie Noggler

- we educate our students about digital issues such as online privacy, intellectual property and copyright, and the importance of maintaining their own privacy online
- we actively educate and remind students of our *Student Wellbeing and Engagement* policy that outlines our School's values and expected student behaviour, including online behaviours
- we 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
- we 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
- we provide a Department of Education filtered internet service to block access to inappropriate content
- we refer suspected illegal online acts to the relevant law enforcement authority for investigation
- we 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
- we do not allow students to use a VPN while at school
- Privacy Impact Assessments (PIA) – At Mandama PS all platforms are assessed and approved by DET – Fraud and Corruption Unit, and PIA statements are kept by the school and made available upon request.

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 supervising 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

Mandama Primary 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.

Mandama Primary School has established ClassDojo classrooms for students to showcase their work, where parents can provide appropriate feedback and comments on their own student's work. This platform is the preferred means of contacting teachers (not administration or Principals). Parents are welcome to contact the Principal via phone if they have any questions or concerns.

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 Mandama 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), Mandama 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 device for a session, day or longer period of time as deemed appropriate
- removal of internet access 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 processes
- Discussed at staff briefings/meetings as required
- Included in our staff handbook/manual
- Discussed at parent information nights/sessions
- Included in transition and enrolment packs
- Made available in hard copy from school administration upon request

REVIEW CYCLE

Policy last reviewed	18/3/2024
Consultation	20/6/2022, School Council
Approved by	Marina Keegan
Next scheduled review date	June 2026