


<i>Policy: Digital Learning</i>		
Date of next Review: 2026 Responsible for review: <i>Principal</i> Consultation via website	Bright P-12 College Council Policy 	Date Approved: 13th December 2024 Approving Authority: Principal

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 1-to-1 personal device program in primary and our BYOD in secondary.
- 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 Bright P-12 College, including Dinner Plain Campus, international Exchange students, their families and host families.

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:

- Bright P-12 College’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)

KEY ACTIONS

Students:

- Familiarise themselves with the school's vision for digital learning and the benefits it offers for their education and future.
- Recognize the importance of using digital technologies safely and appropriately.
- Ensure compliance with the Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) program requirements, including device specifications and care instructions.
- Maintain their devices in good working condition and follow the guidelines for device usage at school.
- Attend educational programs on safe and appropriate use of digital technologies.
- Adhere to the Acceptable Use Agreement and protect their passwords and accounts.
- Report any concerns or incidents related to digital safety to the appropriate school staff.

For Parents and Carers:

- Purchase or acquire a suitable device for their child as per the school's recommendations.
- Consider obtaining insurance for the student's device to cover accidental damage.
- Seek assistance from the designated contact person for the BYOD program if needed.
- Stay informed about the school's efforts to educate students on safe digital practices.
- Engage with the school's resources and communication channels regarding digital technology use.

School Staff:

- Incorporate digital technologies into classroom activities with clear educational objectives.
- Supervise and guide students in using digital tools for learning purposes.
- Address any digital safety issues promptly and effectively.

Leadership Team:

- Ensure that all students and parents/carers have signed the Acceptable Use Agreement.
- Monitor compliance with the digital learning policy and take appropriate actions in case of breaches.
- Provide ongoing support and training for staff, students, and parents on digital safety and responsible use.
- Publish the Digital Learning Policy on the school website for easy access.
- Include policy details in staff and volunteer induction programs and training sessions.

- Discuss policy updates and reminders during staff briefings and meetings.
- Make hard copies of the policy available upon request from the school administration. Regularly review the effectiveness of the policy implementation and make adjustments as needed.
- Collect feedback from students, parents, and staff regarding the digital learning experience and safety measures.
- Ensure ongoing communication and updates on digital learning practices within the school community.

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

1. 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.

Bright P-12 College 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.

2. Personal Devices

Bright P-12 College operates a Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) program for Years 7-12. Classes at our school are delivered with the use of iPads/tablets/notebook computers.

Parents/carers are invited to purchase a device for their child to bring to school. Bright P-12 College 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 in years 7-12 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 128 GB of storage
- operates on Windows 10 or later or MacOS 11 or newer.

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 [Tony Brooks](#) on 03 57551166.

3. Safe and appropriate use of digital technologies

Digital technologies, if not used appropriately, may present risks to users' safety or wellbeing. At Bright P-12 College, 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 our 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
- 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
- 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 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/school portal 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 classroom teacher 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.

Information on supervision arrangements for students engaging in digital learning activities is available in our Yard Duty and Supervision Policy.

4. 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 in which student work and activities are showcased to engage the wider community. Parents are welcome to contact the Assistant Principals if they have any questions or concerns about students participating in 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.

5. Student behavioural expectations

When using digital technologies, students, including International Exchange students are expected to behave in a way that is consistent with Bright P-12 College'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), Bright P-12 College 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 processes and annual staff training
- Included in volunteer induction processes and training for relevant volunteers
- Discussed at annual staff briefings or meetings
- Included in staff handbook or manual
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following policies on the Department's Policy and Advisory Library (PAL):

- [Personal Devices – Access](#)
- [Digital Learning in Schools](#)
- [Social Media Use to Support Student Learning](#)