



# Bentleigh West Primary School

## DIGITAL LEARNING

### (Internet, social media and digital devices)



#### Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact:

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### 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, 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, 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 and staff at Bentleigh West 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:

- Bentleigh West 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 technology at our school**

The use of digital technologies is a mandated component of the Victorian Curriculum F-10.

Bentleigh West Primary School understands that digital technologies including the internet, apps, computers and tablets 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 enhanced learning that is interactive, collaborative, personalised and engaging. 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.

Bentleigh West 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 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 technology, if not used appropriately, may present risks to users’ safety or wellbeing. At Bentleigh West 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 Bentleigh West 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
- 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, 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 ICT teacher or Principal 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.

### **School 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 Bentleigh West 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), Bentleigh West 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
- Discussed at parent information nights/sessions
- Discussed at student forums
- Made available in hard copy from school administration upon request

## Further information and resources

The following school policies relevant to this policy can be found on our school website [BWPS Policies](#)

- Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy
- Bullying Prevention Policy
- School’s Statement of Values
- Child Safety Code of Conduct

## Policy Review And Approval

Policy last reviewed	February 2024
Consultation	School Newsletter on 16 February 2024
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	February 2026

## **BWPS Acceptable Use Agreement**

Please see the *ICT and Internet Use policy* for a copy of our acceptable use agreement for students.

At Bentleigh West 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 form 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 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 using the safety guidelines from the Department; (<https://www.esafety.gov.au/educators/classroom-resources>)
- 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
- 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:

- o BullystoppersParentInteractiveLearningModules  
([www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/bullystoppers/Pages/parentmodules.aspx](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/bullystoppers/Pages/parentmodules.aspx))
- o eSafetyParent | OfficeoftheChildren'seSafetyCommissioner  
(<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 share is polite and respectful at all times
- being kind to my friends and classmates and thinking about how the things I do or say online might make them feel at all times
- never sending mean or bullying messages or forwarding them to other people.

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 parents
- 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 information about myself.

I **respect myself, the school and others**. This means I:

- stop to think about what I post or share online
- will not share or post the link (or password) to video conferencing meetings (Webex)
- 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
- creating and presenting my own work, and if I copy something from online, I include the website address that I got the information from
- 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
- will not access other people's folders or files
- will not delete or change anyone else's work
- am careful with all the equipment I use
- I make sure my smart watch, (if I have one) is on school mode or do not disturb.

At school we/I have:

- discussed ways to be a safe, responsible and ethical user of digital technologies.
- Shared my ideas about how 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.

This AUA applies when digital devices and technologies are being used at school, for school-directed learning, during school excursions, at camps and extra-curricular activities, at home and all other places where we use digital technologies.

I understand that there are actions and consequences established within the school's Student Engagement Policy if I do not behave appropriately.