MOOROOLBARK GRAMMAR
Digital Learning Policy

Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact the school office.

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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) our school prioritises the safety of students whilst they are using digital technologies.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all students and staff at Mooroolbark Grammar.

Staff and student use of technology is governed by this policy.

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

- Mooroolbark Grammar 's Child Safety Code of Conduct
- The Victorian Teaching Profession Code of Conduct

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 school-provided software, students' personal devices and locally sourced devices, tools and systems.

Cyber safety refers to the safe and responsible use of information and communication technologies. This includes privacy and information protection, respectful communication and knowing how to get help to deal with online issues.

Cyberbullying is the ongoing abuse of power to threaten or harm another person through the use of technology.

Sexting is the sending or posting of provocative or sexual photos, messages or videos online.

Identity theft is the fraudulent assumption of a person's private information for their personal gain. Students are exposed to these risks as they are often unaware of the safety issues surrounding their digital footprint.

Predatory behaviour occurs where a student is targeted online by a stranger who attempts to arrange a face-to-face meeting, in an attempt to engage in inappropriate behaviour.

POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

Vision for digital learning at our school

The use of digital technologies is a mandated component of the Australian - 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.

Mooroolbark Grammar 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

Mooroolbark Grammar delivers the curriculum with the use of devices and systems supplied by the school.

Students, parents and carers who would like more information or assistance regarding our digital learning program are encouraged to contact the principal.

Safe and appropriate use of digital technologies

Digital technologies, if not used appropriately, may present risks to users' safety or wellbeing. At Mooroolbark Grammar, 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 Mooroolbark Grammar, 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 a beginning of the year induction program for all Grades 3–6 students
- 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 guidelines outlined in the school's *Student Wellbeing and 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 school information sheets, website/school portal and information sessions.

Distribution of school owned devices to students 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, or the 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*.

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Social media use

Our school follows guidelines 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.

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, school 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 Mooroolbark Grammar's *School Philosophy, Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy*, and *Bullying and Harassment 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), Mooroolbark Grammar 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 and Harassment Prevention* policies.

COMMUNICATION

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

- Available publicly on our school's website and through the communication portal
- Included in staff induction processes
- Discussed at staff briefings/meetings as required
- Discussed at parent information nights/sessions
- Included in enrolment packs
- Made available in hard copy from school administration upon request

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Related School Policies/Documents:

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Bullying and Harassment Prevention Policy
- Child Safe Policy
- Duty of Care Policy
- Statement of Values and School Philosophy
- Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy
- Yard Duty and Supervision Policy

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

This policy will be reviewed every 2 years, or earlier as required following breaches of this policy and/or an incident relating to internet use or cyberbullying.

Policy last reviewed	October 2024
Approved by	Principal October 2024
Approved by	School Governing Board October 2024
Next scheduled review date	October 2026