

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES

(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
- (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

SCOPE

This policy applies to all students at Waratah SDS.

Staff use of technology is governed by the Department's *Acceptable Use Policy*

DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this policy, "digital technologies" are defined as being any networks, systems, software or hardware including electronic devices and applications which allow a user to access, receive, view, record, store, communicate, copy or send any information such as text, images, audio, or video.

POLICY

Vision for digital technology at our school

Waratah SDS understands that safe and appropriate use of digital technologies including the internet, apps, computers, tablets and communication devices 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 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.

Waratah SDS 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.

Communication Devices at Waratah SDS

Some students have their own iPad or electronic communication device that they bring to school to support their communication. School staff work in collaboration with parents/carers and NDIS therapists to support students to use these devices.

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 iPad.

Safe and appropriate use of digital technologies

Digital technology, if not used appropriately, may present risks to users' safety or wellbeing. At Waratah SDS, we are committed to educating all students to be safe, responsible and discerning in the use of digital technologies, equipping them with skills and knowledge to navigate the digital age.

At Waratah SDS, we:

- use online sites and digital tools that support students' learning, and focus our use of digital technologies on being learning-centred
- restrict the use of digital technologies in the classroom to specific uses with targeted educational or developmental aims
- supervise and support students using digital technologies in the classroom
- 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 promoting safe, responsible and discerning use of digital technologies
- educate our students about digital issues such as online privacy and the importance of maintaining their own privacy 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 technology at school
- 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
- 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 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 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.

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.

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.

Student behavioural expectations

When using digital technologies, students are expected to behave in a way that is consistent with Waratah SDS'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), Waratah SDS will institute a staged response, consistent with our policies and the Department's *Student Engagement and Inclusion Guidelines*.

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.

REVIEW CYCLE

This policy was last updated on June 2020 and is scheduled for review in June 2022



Waratah SDS Cyber Safe Expected Behaviours

When I use digital technologies, I:

Show Respect

Communicate respectfully by thinking and checking that what I write or post is polite and respectful.

This means:

- Never sending mean or hurtful messages or emails
- Never sending or using photos of my friends or family without asking them.

Act Safely

Protect personal information (name, address, date of birth etc).

This means:

- Always asking an adult before putting my personal information online.
- Never putting my friends or families information online.
- Protecting my password and not sharing it with others.
- Always asking a parent or teacher before joining a space online.
- Never answering questions online that ask for my person information

Act Responsibly

Look after myself and others by thinking about what I share online.

This means:

- Speaking to a teacher or parent if I see something that makes me feel upset or if I need help.
- Speaking to a teacher or parent if someone is mean to me.
- Speaking to a teacher or parent if someone is upset or scared.
- Stopping to think about what I post or share online
- Using spaces or sites that are right for my age.
- Not deliberately searching for something rude or violent.
- Turning off the screen or using the back button if I see something I don't like and telling a teacher or a parent.
- Being careful with the equipment I use.

I agree with these terms and conditions.

Name: _____

Date: _____/_____/2020