



# BALLARAT PRIMARY SCHOOL (DANA ST)

## DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES

### (INTERNET, SOCIAL MEDIA AND DIGITAL DEVICES)

## POLICY

#### 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 [including our 1-to-1 personal device program for students from grades 3-6.
- (b) expected student behaviour when using digital technologies including the internet, social media, and digital devices (including computers, netbooks, tablets/iPads, etc)
- (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 Dana Street Primary School.

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

Dana Street 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. At Dana Street Primary School we believe it is important for our staff and students to develop the skills necessary to become responsible, reliable and respectful users of digital devices. In conjunction with this policy Dana Street Primary School has an annual student agreement to assist this process, which is a set of guidelines for the safe and responsible use and ongoing care of our Digital Learning equipment. This policy and the annual student agreement incorporates a variety of ethical, legal and professional issues.

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.

Dana Street 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.

### 1 to 1 Netbooks at Dana Street Primary School

Students in 3-6 classes at Dana Street Primary School utilise netbooks to deliver learning daily. Our school operates a 1 to 1 program from grade 3, which means families have the opportunity to lease a device through the school for their child to use at school and home. Students must bring their leased netbook fully charged with them to school each day ready to be used in a range of learning activities.

The school engages with a supplier to obtain superior quality devices for an optimum price, for families to lease or purchase for their child's use.

Please note that our school does not have insurance to cover accidental damage to students' netbooks, and parents/carers are encouraged to consider obtaining their own insurance for their child's netbook.

Dana Street Primary School has arrangements in place to support families who may be experiencing long or short-term hardship to access netbooks through the school's leasing arrangements. We have a number of spare netbooks that can be loaned to students in certain circumstances.

Students, parents and carers who would like more information or assistance regarding our 1 to 1 leasing program are encouraged to contact the Assistant Principal.

### Safe and appropriate use of digital technologies

Digital technology, if not used appropriately, may present risks to users' safety or wellbeing. At Dana Street Primary School, 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 Dana Street Primary School, we:

- begin each year with each student, class and family reading through our digital technologies acceptable use agreement
- 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, including our licence program, that has been developed to enhance student understanding through a step by step process
- educate our students about digital issues such as online privacy, intellectual property and copyright, and the importance of maintaining their own privacy online. Including being a registered eSMART school and providing regular digital safety lessons

- 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
- 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 Dana Street Primary 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 Assistant 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.

### Student behavioural expectations

When using digital technologies, students are expected to behave in a way that is consistent with Dana Street Primary School *Statement of Values, Student Wellbeing and Engagement* policy, *Acceptable Use agreement* 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), Dana Street Primary School 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
- Verbal warning to student
- Suspension from the use of a device as outlined in the digital technologies responsible use agreement
- other consequences as outlined in the school's *Student Wellbeing and Engagement* and *Bullying Prevention* policies.

## REVIEW CYCLE

This policy was last updated on January 2019 and is scheduled for review in January 2021