



WHS USE OF DIGITAL DEVICES & ONLINE SERVICES PROCEDURES 2021

Authors: Michael Stanizzo, Paul Brown, Megan Murdzevski

Purpose

This procedure guides the use of digital devices and online services at our school.

Our school acknowledges the educational value of digital devices and online services in supporting and enhancing educational outcomes and student wellbeing. We also recognise they may cause harm if used inappropriately and that we need to support our students to use them in safe, responsible and respectful ways.

Scope

This procedure provides a consistent framework for the safe, responsible and respectful use of digital devices and online services in our school. It sets out the shared responsibilities of school staff, students and parents and carers. It also provides a framework to manage potential risks to student safety and wellbeing.

This procedure covers student use of digital devices and online services in school-related settings, including on school grounds, at school-related activities and outside of school where there is a clear and close connection between the school and the conduct of students. This procedure covers the use of school-provided and personal digital devices and all online services.

Our School's Vision

Warrawong High School understands that digital technologies including the internet, apps, computers, mobile phones 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.

Warrawong High 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.

Students are permitted to use and access their devices for educational purposes, at the discretion of staff, before and after school, during class, break times and whilst at home.

Each student is absolutely and solely responsible for the care and conduct of their own personal device whilst at school and when travelling to and from school or other school activities. WHS accepts no responsibility for loss of or damage to, or for maintenance or repair required on a student's own device through any act or omission resulting from the negligence or otherwise of the school, a member of the school staff or of another student.

Exemptions

Exemptions to any part of this procedure may apply for some students in some circumstances. Parents and carers can request an exemption and these will be considered on a case-by-case basis and granted when required by law or at the Principal's discretion.

Consequences for inappropriate use

Students who do not comply with the procedures outlined in this document may be subject to a range of sanctions within the guidelines of the [WHS Behaviour Management Policy](#). Students may also lose access to any information technology resources provided by WHS and DoE.

Contact between students and parents and carers during the school day

Should a student need to make a call during the school day, they should:

- approach the administration office and ask for permission to use the school's phone; or
- use their own device during break time

During school hours, parents and carers are expected to only contact their children via the school office.

Responsibilities and obligations

Supporting students to use digital devices and online services in safe, responsible and respectful ways is a shared responsibility.

For students

- Be safe, responsible and respectful users of digital devices and online services, and support their peers to be the same.
- Respect and follow school rules and procedures and the decisions made by staff, knowing that other schools may have different arrangements.
- Communicate respectfully and collaboratively with peers, school staff and the school community and behave in the ways described in the [WHS Student Rights and Responsibilities](#).

For parents and carers

- Recognise the role they play in educating their children and modelling the behaviours that underpin the safe, responsible and respectful use of digital devices and online services.
- Support implementation of the school procedure, including its approach to resolving issues.
- Take responsibility for their child's use of digital devices and online services at home such as use of online services with age and content restrictions.
- Communicate with school staff and the school community respectfully and collaboratively as outlined in the [2018-2022 School Community Charter](#).
- Switch off or put their digital devices on silent when at official school functions or during meetings.
- Provide digital devices that meet school specifications where a school is participating in a Bring Your Own Device program and complete any related paperwork.

For the school staff

- Deliver learning experiences that encourage safe, responsible and respectful use of digital devices and online services. This includes:
 - Establishing agreed classroom expectations for using digital devices and online services, in line with this procedure and departmental policy.
 - Identifying strategies to ensure that all students are able to engage in classroom activities including strategies to accommodate students without a digital device.
 - Reading and abiding by the Terms of Service for any online services they use in teaching, including those limiting use by age.
 - Educating students about online privacy, intellectual property, copyright, digital literacy and other online safety related issues.
- Model appropriate use of digital devices and online services in line with departmental policy.
- Respond to and report any breaches and incidents of inappropriate use of digital devices and online services as required by school procedures, departmental policy and any statutory and regulatory requirements. This includes:

- Reporting the creation, possession or distribution of indecent or offensive material to the Incident Support and Report hotline as required by the Incident Notification and Response Policy and Procedures and consider any mandatory reporting requirements.
 - Working with the department and the Office of the eSafety Commissioner (if necessary) to resolve cases of serious online bullying and image-based abuse.
 - Following the school's behaviour management policy when responding to any incident of inappropriate student behaviour relating to the use of digital devices or online services.
- If feasible and particularly as issues emerge, support parents and carers to understand strategies that promote their children's safe, responsible and respectful use of digital devices and online services.
 - Participate in professional development related to appropriate use of digital devices and online services.

For non-teaching staff, volunteers and contractors

- Be aware of the department's policy, this procedure and act in line with the conduct described.
- Report any inappropriate use of digital devices and online services to the principal, school executive or school staff they are working with.

Communicating this procedure to the school community

Students will be informed about this procedure through year meetings and school assemblies.

Parents and carers will be advised via the school newsletter and social media platforms. This procedure can be accessed electronically via the [school's website](#) and in hardcopy at the school's administration office.

Complaints

If a student, parent or carer has a complaint under this procedure, they should first follow our school's complaint process. If the issue cannot be resolved, please refer to the department's [guide for students/ parents/ carers about making a complaint about our schools](#).

Loan Devices

If a student requests the school to lend them a device, they must complete the [Device Loan Agreement form](#) and return to the front office who will liaise with the TSO.

BYOD

Any student wishing to bring their own device needs to obtain and complete a ['Bring Your Own Device' Program Student Contract](#) and return to the TSO.

Review

The principal or delegated staff will review this procedure annually.

Appendix 1: Key terms

Bring your own device is an optional program where parents and carers can provide personal digital devices for use at school. Any decision to adopt a bring your own device program is made by the principal in consultation with a school community. All digital devices used in schools are covered by the *Student Use of Digital Devices and Online Services* policy. Schools retain discretion to determine the specifications of personal devices to be used at school.

Digital citizenship refers to the skills and knowledge a person needs to effectively use digital technologies in a positive way so they can participate in society, communicate with others, and create and consume digital content.

Digital devices are electronic devices that can receive, store, process and share digital information and connect to applications (apps), websites and other online services. They include desktop computers, laptops, tablets, smartwatches, smartphones and other devices.

Digital literacy is the set of social, emotional and technological skills and competencies that people need to understand to use digital devices and online services, and to expand their opportunities for education, employment and social participation, including entertainment.

Educational purpose is any use approved by school staff that supports student learning, wellbeing and educational outcomes.

General capabilities are the broad collection of knowledge, skills, behaviours and dispositions described within the Australian curriculum and NSW syllabus.

Image-based abuse occurs when intimate, nude or sexual images are distributed, or threatened to be distributed, without the consent of those pictured. This includes real, altered and drawn pictures and videos. This is a crime in NSW.

Online bullying involves using technology such as the internet or mobile devices to bully someone. Bullying behaviour has three key features. It involves the intentional misuse of power in a relationship. It is ongoing and repeated, and it involves behaviours that can cause harm. Bullying behaviour can also involve intimidation, victimisation and harassment, including that based on sex, race, religion, disability, or sexual orientation.

Online safety is the safe, responsible and respectful use of digital media, devices, other technology and online services.

Online services are any software, website or application that can gather, process or communicate information. This includes digital classrooms, chat and messaging, online games, virtual reality, social media and other online spaces.

Reasonable adjustment is a measure or action taken to assist a student with disability to participate in education and training on the same basis as other students.

School-related settings include school grounds, school-related activities and outside of school where there is a clear and close connection between the school and the conduct of students. This connection may exist in situations where: there is discussion about school taking place outside of school hours; a student is wearing their school uniform but is not on school premises; a relationship between parties commenced at school; students are online in digital classrooms; and where online contact has flow on consequences at school and duty of care requires the school to respond once an incident is reported.

School staff refers to school personnel who have some level of responsibility for implementing policy and the school digital devices and online service procedure. This includes principals, senior staff, teachers, non-teaching staff, school administrative staff, volunteers and contracted staff engaged by schools.

Appendix 2: What is safe, responsible and respectful student behaviour?

<p>Be SAFE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Protect your personal information, including your name, address, school, email address, telephone number, pictures of you and other personal details. <input type="checkbox"/> Only use your own usernames and passwords, and never share them with others. <input type="checkbox"/> Ask a teacher or other responsible adult for help if anyone online asks for your personal information, wants to meet you or offers you money or gifts. <input type="checkbox"/> Let a teacher or other responsible adult know immediately if you find anything online that is suspicious, harmful, inappropriate or makes you uncomfortable. <input type="checkbox"/> Never hack, disable or bypass any hardware or software security, including any virus protection, spam and filter settings.
<p>Be RESPONSIBLE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Follow all school rules and instructions from school staff, including when using digital devices and online services. <input type="checkbox"/> Take care with the digital devices you use. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Make sure the devices you bring to school are fully charged each day and are stored appropriately when not in use. o Understand that you and your parents and carers are responsible for any repairs or IT support your personal devices might need. o Make sure the devices you bring to school have the latest software installed. o Take care with the school-owned devices you share with others, so that other people can use them after you. <input type="checkbox"/> Use online services in responsible and age-appropriate ways. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Only use online services in the ways agreed to with your teacher. o Only access appropriate content and websites, including when using the school's filtered network and personal, unfiltered networks. o Do not use online services to buy or sell things online, to gamble or to do anything that breaks the law. <input type="checkbox"/> Understand that everything done on the school's network is monitored and can be used in investigations, court proceedings or for other legal reasons.
<p>Be RESPECTFUL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Respect and protect the privacy, safety and wellbeing of others. <input type="checkbox"/> Do not share anyone else's personal information. <input type="checkbox"/> Get permission before you take a photo or video of someone, including from the person and from a teacher. <input type="checkbox"/> Do not harass or bully other students, school staff or anyone, this includes cyberbullying using a digital device or online service. <input type="checkbox"/> Do not send or share messages or content that could cause harm, including things that might be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o inappropriate, offensive or abusive; o upsetting or embarrassing to another person or group; o considered bullying; o private or confidential; and/or o a virus or other harmful software.