

Digital Learning Policy (Internet, Social Media, and Digital Devices)

Purpose

To ensure that all students and members of our school community understand:

- our commitment to providing students with the opportunity to benefit from digital technologies to support and enhance learning and development at school including our one to one Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) program.
- expected student behaviour when using digital technologies including the internet, social media, and digital devices (including computers, laptops, tablets)
- 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
- 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 Bentleigh Secondary College. Staff use of technology is governed by the Department's *Acceptable Use Policy* in addition to DET requirements under the *Acceptable Use Policy* for all DET community members.

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

Bentleigh Secondary College 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. This access to digital technology is now a part of our everyday life and we must ensure we prepare our young people for a productive work future.

Bentleigh Secondary College believes that the use of digital technologies at school also allows the development of valuable skills and knowledge and prepares students to thrive in our globalised and interconnected 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. Classes at Bentleigh Secondary College are delivered with the use of BYOD. Students must bring a charged device to school each day for use during class time for learning activities.

Our school currently operates a Bring Your Own Device program (BYOD), supported by Bentleigh Secondary College's ICT.

Students are now required to have their own device that must have:

- a protective case
- Windows 10 or Windows 11 / Mac OS Sanoma or above
- Intel Core i3 (6th generation or higher) or AMD Ryzen 3 / MacBook Apple A18 Pro chip - 6 Core CPU or higher processor
- 128GB SSD/ MacBook with 256GB SSD or higher

- 8GB of RAM
- 12" Display (maximum 15")
- Maximum weight 2.5kg
- Video conferencing capabilities (Microphone/Camera)
- 10+ hour battery life
- have access to Office 365 suite as supplied by the Department of Education and other education software as required.
- Parents must be aware that the College has no insurance to cover theft, loss or accidental damage to devices and they must provide their own.

Bentleigh Secondary College supports families who are experiencing long or short-term hardship, however, there are no longer long-term loan devices available. Parents experiencing hardship should contact Wellbeing or the Assistant Principal responsible for ICT.

Safe and appropriate use of digital technologies

Digital technology, if not used appropriately, may present risks to users' safety or wellbeing.

At Bentleigh Secondary College, 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 Bentleigh Secondary College, we:

- use online resources 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, intellectual property and copyright, and the importance of maintaining their own privacy online
- actively educate and remind students of our *Student Engagement and Wellbeing* 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.

Students whose parents provide a BYOD device must sign an 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 their classroom teacher, the Head of Year Level or the ICT Manager immediately.

All messages created, sent, or retrieved on the school's network or distributed via school email or Teams 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 Bentleigh Secondary College'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 Secondary College will institute a staged response, consistent with our policies and the Department's *Student Engagement and Inclusion Guidelines*.

Students are expected not to use iMessage, phone mirroring, or similar device-sharing features on their school devices. The use of social media applications, including but not limited to Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, Snapchat, and associated messaging services, is prohibited on school devices during school hours.

Students are expected to use school devices for educational purposes only. Accessing sports streaming websites, using personal hotspots, or installing and using VPN applications or services on school devices is prohibited. These activities may impact

Breaches of this policy by students can result in several 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.

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

- Available publicly on our school's website
- Included in staff induction processes and staff training
- Included in staff handbook/manual
- Discussed at staff briefings/meetings as required
- Included in transition and enrolment packs
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request
- Policy Review and Approval

Policy last reviewed	August 2026
Ratified by	
Next scheduled review date	2027