

Ringwood Secondary College

Digital Learning Policy

(Internet, Social Media and Digital Devices)



Help for non-English speakers.

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact Ringwood Secondary College on (03) 9870 2002.

Ringwood Secondary College is committed to creating and maintaining a child safe and child-friendly organisation. The Child Safe Standards are compulsory minimum standards for all Victorian schools to ensure they are well prepared to keep children and young people safe and protect them from abuse. [Ministerial Order 1359](#) provides the framework for child safety in schools.

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, which includes iPads at Years 7, 8 and 9 and MacBooks at Years 10 – 12.
- (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) the various Department policies on digital learning, including social media, that our school follows and implements

Scope

This policy applies to all students and staff at Ringwood Secondary College. Staff use of technology is also governed by the following Department policies:

- [Acceptable Use Policy for ICT Resources](#)
- [Cybersafety and Responsible Use of Digital Technologies](#)
- [Digital Learning in Schools](#) and
- [Social Media Use to Support Student Learning](#).

This policy is to be read in conjunction with the Acceptable Use Agreement – please refer to Annexure A.

Staff, volunteers and School Councillors also need to adhere to codes of conduct relevant to their respective roles. These codes include:

- [Ringwood Secondary College's Child Safety Code of Conduct](#)
- [The Victorian Teaching Profession Code of Conduct](#) (teaching staff)

- [Code of Conduct for Victorian Sector Employees](#) (staff)
- [Code of Conduct for Directors of Victorian Public Entities](#) (School Councillors)

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 Department- provided software and locally sourced devices, tools and systems. This also refers to electronic devices and applications that 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 learning at our school

Ringwood Secondary College understands that 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 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.

Ringwood Secondary College 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 at Ringwood Secondary College

Classes at Ringwood Secondary College are delivered with the use of iPads/MacBook devices. Students must bring a charged device to school each day to be used during class time for different learning activities.

For specific details on the iPad and/or MacBook program and device minimum requirements, please visit the relevant website below:

<https://www.ringwoodsc.vic.edu.au/junior-school/ipad-program/>

<https://www.ringwoodsc.vic.edu.au/middle-school/student-laptop-program/>

Ringwood Secondary College has in place arrangements to support families who may be experiencing long or short-term hardship to access devices for schoolwork. The College also has a number of devices that may be loaned to students in certain circumstances.

Safe and appropriate use of digital technologies

Digital technologies, if not used appropriately, may present risks to users’ safety or wellbeing. At Ringwood Secondary College, we are committed to educating all students to use digital technologies in ways that respect the dignity of ourselves and others, equipping students with the skills and knowledge to navigate the digital world.

At Ringwood Secondary College, 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 Cybersafety training for 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 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 technologies 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 and removing offensive content at the earliest opportunity
- educate 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

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.

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 or House Co-ordinator 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.

Social media use

Our school follows the Department's policy on Social Media Use to Support Learning 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.

In accordance with the Department's policy on social media, 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, Department 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 Ringwood Secondary College's Statement of Values, Student Wellbeing and Engagement policy, and Bullying Prevention policy.

Acting 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), 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 Prevention policies.

Communication

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

- Available publicly on our school's website
- Included in staff induction and child safety training processes
- Discussed at staff briefings/meetings as required
- Included in our staff handbook/manual
- Discussed at parent information nights/sessions
- Included in transition and enrolment packs
- Included as annual reference in school newsletter
- Discussed at student forums/through communication tools
- Made available in hard copy from school administration upon request

Policy status and review

Assistant principal is responsible for reviewing and updated the Digital Learning Policy at least every two years.

Approval

Policy last reviewed	18 July 2023
Consultation	Policy and Education Committee/Head of Digital Learning
Endorsed by	Principal School Council
Endorsed on	18 July 2023
Next review date	July 2025