

HAMILTON SOUTH PUBLIC SCHOOL

Student Use of Digital Devices and Online Services Procedure



**HSPS STUDENT USE OF DIGITAL DEVICES AND ONLINE
SERVICES PROCEDURE**

Updated 11/03/2020 by Belinda Conry

PURPOSE

This procedure guides student 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 by students 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 APPROACH

At Hamilton South Public School, we understand that digital technologies including the internet, apps, computers and tablets provide students with opportunities to support learning and development in a range of ways. Digital technologies enable our students to interact with, and create, high quality content, resources and tools. These technologies enable personalised learning tailored to students' particular needs and interests and transforms assessment, reporting and feedback, driving new forms of collaboration and communication. Student use of digital devices and online services in schools is intended to enhance learning, wellbeing and educational attainment. Digital devices and online services can help students develop the skills needed for digital literacy, creativity, critical thinking, problem solving and interpersonal relationships.

Hamilton South Public School manages the effective and safe use of digital technologies in the following ways:

- Student mobile phones will be handed into the office at the start of each school day and collected after 2:55pm. Student mobile phones are kept in a secure area of the school office in individually labelled bags. Students will turn their phone off in front of administration staff and any damage to the phone will be noted on the labelled bag as it is handed in. Student mobile phones will be kept in a secure, locked area from 8:55am – 2:55pm.
- Student smart watches that have communication, photo taking, recording or internet capabilities will be handed into the office at the start of each school day and collected after 2:55pm. Student smart watches will be stored and labelled as per mobile phones.
- Students K-6 will be taught the skills to effectively utilise digital technologies and participate in e-Safety lessons across the year.
- Students K-6 and their families/carers are required to sign a yearly '*Online Communication Services: Acceptable Usage for Students Form*' at the start of each year.
- Students K-6 are provided with a unique password for logging on to school digital devices.
- Incidents relating to the misuse of school digital devices will be dealt with in accordance with the HSPS School Discipline Policy and will be recorded confidentially.
- Students K-6 will have access to a range of digital devices as part of rich teaching and learning and experiences.
- Students that bring digital devices to the school do so at their own risk – HSPS does not accept any responsibility for loss or damage to digital devices while they are in a student's possession.
- Staff will teach e-Safety lessons throughout the school calendar year.
- Students will be supervised when using digital devices as learning tools.

- During wet weather students will only use digital devices if completing school work in consultation with the class teacher. Digital devices must be supervised by the teacher at all times. Teachers may utilise the interactive board for activities such as Go Noodle, Storyline Online, Vooks or watching a G-rated movie.

Hamilton South Public School will restrict the use of digital devices, including mobile phones during school hours. Primary-aged students will not be allowed to use digital technology during class time, recess and lunch unless for an educational purpose or where a student needs it for other reasons, such as an adjustment for disability.

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

The procedures applying to the inappropriate use of mobile phones apply equally to the inappropriate use of tablets, portable computer games, iPods and similar devices including cameras and smart watches.

Inappropriate use of a mobile phone includes (*Legal Issues Bulletin 35*):

- using it in a way that disrupts or is likely to disrupt the learning environment or interfere with the operation of the school.
- bullying, intimidating or otherwise harassing others through SMS or text messaging or through photographic, video or other data transfer system available on the phone.
- recording of conversations, including lessons, without the knowledge and permission of the teacher or those involved in the conversation .
- downloading or otherwise accessing offensive and/or inappropriate material on the internet.
- filming of fights or other criminal behaviour involving students that occur at school, during school activities or while on the way to or from school.
- using it in a way that threatens or is likely to threaten the safety or wellbeing of any person
- use that is in breach of any law.

Consequences for inappropriate use include:

- applying student disciplinary provisions in-line with HSPS School Discipline Policy (*Legal Issues Bulletin 35*).
- where necessary, reporting the matter to the police (*Legal Issues Bulletin 35*).
- confiscation of personal property (including digital devices) which will be kept in a secure, locked area (*Legal Issues Bulletin 8 and 35*).
- students' access to school online services may be blocked until further notice.

Confiscation of personal property (including digital devices):

Personal property (including digital devices) is able to be confiscated by the school when it is being used inappropriately by the student (*Legal Issues Bulletin 56*). 'Inappropriate use' has a wide meaning and will include being used in a way that is:

- contrary to any applicable school rules.
- disruptive to the school's learning environment.
- a risk to the safety or wellbeing of students, staff or other people.
- contrary to any reasonable direction given by school staff about the use of the item.
- illegal or otherwise of a nature that causes significant concern for staff.

CONTACT BETWEEN STUDENTS AND PARENTS AND CARERS DURING THE SCHOOL DAY

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

- approach a teacher/the administration office and ask for permission to use the school's phone.

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 Behaviour Code for Students.

NSW Behaviour Code for Students

In NSW public schools students are expected to:

- Respect other students, their teachers and school staff and community members
- Follow school and class rules and follow the directions of their teachers
- Strive for the highest standards in learning
- Respect all members of the school community and show courtesy to all students, teachers and community members
- Resolve conflict respectfully, calmly and fairly
- Comply with the school's uniform policy or dress code
- Attend school every day (unless legally excused)
- Respect all property
- Not be violent or bring weapons, illegal drugs, alcohol or tobacco into our schools
- Not bully, harass, intimidate or discriminate against anyone in our schools

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 School Community Charter.
- Switch off or put their digital devices on silent when at official school functions, during meetings and when assisting in the classroom.

For the principal and teachers:

- 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 plan 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 class lessons and school assemblies.

Parents and carers will be advised via the school newsletter. 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.

REVIEW

The principal or delegated staff will review this procedure annually.

APPENDIX 1: KEY TERMS

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?

Be SAFE

- Protect your personal information, including your name, address, school, email address, telephone number, pictures of you and other personal details.
- Only use your own usernames and passwords, and never share them with others.
- 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.
- Let a teacher or other responsible adult know immediately if you find anything online that is suspicious, harmful, inappropriate or makes you uncomfortable.
- Never hack, disable or bypass any hardware or software security, including any virus protection, spam and filter settings.

Be RESPONSIBLE

- Follow all school rules and instructions from school staff, including when using digital devices and online services.
- Take care with the digital devices you use.
 - Make sure the devices you bring to school are fully charged each day and are stored appropriately when not in use.
 - Understand that you and your parents and carers are responsible for any repairs or IT support your personal devices might need.
 - Make sure the devices you bring to school have the latest software installed.
 - Take care with the school-owned devices you share with others, so that other people can use them after you.
- Use online services in responsible and age-appropriate ways.
 - Only use online services in the ways agreed to with your teacher.
 - Only access appropriate content and websites, including when using the school's filtered network and personal, unfiltered networks.
 - Do not use online services to buy or sell things online, to gamble or to do anything that breaks the law.
- Understand that everything done on the school's network is monitored and can be used in investigations, court proceedings or for other legal reasons.

Be RESPECTFUL

- Respect and protect the privacy, safety and wellbeing of others.
- Do not share anyone else's personal information.
- Get permission before you take a photo or video of someone, including from the person and from a teacher.
- Do not harass or bully other students, school staff or anyone, this includes cyberbullying using a digital device or online service.
- Do not send or share messages or content that could cause harm, including things that might be:
 - inappropriate, offensive or abusive;
 - upsetting or embarrassing to another person or group;
 - considered bullying;
 - private or confidential; and/or
 - a virus or other harmful software.

