

DIGITAL LEARNING POLICY 2024

(INTERNET, SOCIAL MEDIA AND DIGITAL DEVICES)



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact by
Phone: 9309-6258

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. **This includes use of student specific communication devices, classroom iPads utilised in line with the digital platform Seesaw, as well as desktop computers.** ~~including [our 1 to 1 personal device program or insert other appropriate programs as relevant to your school]~~
- (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 when using digital technology
- (f) our school prioritises the safety of students whilst they are using digital technologies

SCOPE

This policy applies to all students and staff at Jacana School for Autism.

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 \(including our Acceptable Use Agreement\)](#)
- [Digital Learning in Schools](#) and
- [Social Media Use to Support Student Learning](#).

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

- [Jacana School for Autism'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.

POLICY

Vision for Digital Learning at our School

The use of digital technologies is a mandated component of the Victorian Curriculum F-10.

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, engaging and transformative. 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.

Jacana School for Autism 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.

Safe and Appropriate Use of Digital Technologies

Digital technologies, if not used appropriately, may present risks to users' safety or wellbeing. At Jacana School for Autism, we are committed to educating all students to use digital technologies safely, equipping students with the skills and knowledge to navigate the digital world.

At Jacana School for Autism, 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. This includes explicit teaching of Cyber Safety as well as safe, and appropriate use of classroom resources as part of the Personal and Social Capabilities Curriculum.
- 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 for their schoolwork
- 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 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 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 through regular updates in our newsletter, information sheets, website/school portal and information sessions.

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.

I'm wondering if the highlighted above needs to be there? Or is a separate paragraph due to the necessary steps being different to what follows it in the sentence. I think we may need to distinguish between or make more explicit the use of school devices, versus individual student devices.

When utilising JSA endorsed programs, students will be provided with unique passwords to access their accounts. It is the responsibility of all students, with staff support, 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 classroom teacher, who will alert the relevant sub school leader 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.

Information on supervision arrangements for students engaging in digital learning activities is available in our [Supervision of Students Policy](#).

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 Jacana School for Autism's [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), Jacana School for Autism 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.

Appendix A - SAFE USE OF TECHNOLOGY, E-SMART AND THE INTERNET - JSA Cyber Safe Expected Behaviours

Appendix B - Acceptable Use Agreement - Student Agreement

Appendix C – Teacher Request to unblock websites

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 student diaries so that it is easily accessible to parents, carers and students
- Included in transition and enrolment packs
- Included as an annual reference in the school newsletter
- Discussed at student leaderships/through communication tools
- Made available in hard copy from the school administration upon request

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	June 3 rd , 2024
Consultation	School Council
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	June 3 rd , 2026 Term 2, 2026

APPENDIX A:

JSA Cyber Safe Expected Behaviours

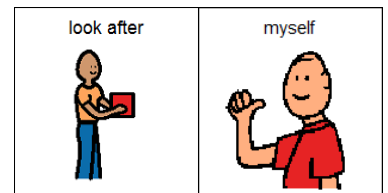
TECHNOLOGY, E-SMART AND THE INTERNET

JSA Cyber Safe Expected Behaviours

When I use digital technologies I:

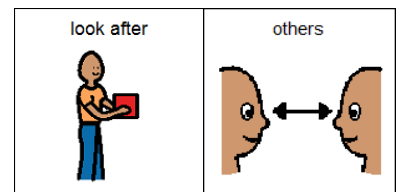
'Look after Myself' by:

- Use nicknames instead of real names
- Keep my address and date of birth private
- Protecting personal information (name, address, date of birth)
- Keep my password private
- Asking permission to use technology
- Using the internet for learning related purposes
- Accessing educational games, apps, websites and online materials that are right for my age and for school
- Speaking to a teacher (or parent) if I see something that makes me feel upset or if I need help
- Speaking to a teacher (or parent) if someone is mean to me online



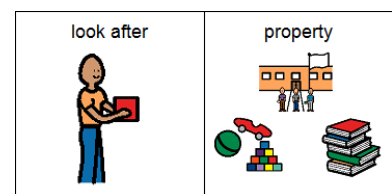
'Look after Others' by:

- Asking permission before taking someone's photo
- Stopping to think about what I post or share online about others
- Being respectful and using friendly language
- Speaking to a teacher (or parent) if I know that someone has been mean to others online
- Speaking to a teacher if I know someone else is upset or scared



'Look after Property' by:

- Using equipment safely
- Using coding for learning purposes
- Accepting that unsafe sites may be blocked
- Packing away when finished



APPENDIX B: Acceptable Use Agreement (Page 1)

Acceptable Use Agreement

Student Declaration

- When I use digital technologies I agree to be a safe, responsible and ethical user at all times, by:
- Respecting others and communicating with them in a supportive manner; never writing or participating in online bullying (for example, forwarding messages and supporting others in harmful, inappropriate or hurtful online behaviours)
- Protecting my privacy; not giving out personal details, including my full name, telephone number, address, passwords and images
- Protecting the privacy of others; never posting or forwarding their personal details or images without their consent
- Talking to a teacher if I personally feel uncomfortable or unsafe online, or if I see others participating in unsafe, inappropriate or hurtful online behaviours
- Carefully considering the content that I upload or post online; this is often viewed as a personal reflection of who I am
- Investigating the terms and conditions (e.g. age restrictions, parental consent requirements). If my understanding is unclear I will seek further explanation from a trusted adult
- Confirming that I meet the stated terms and conditions; completing the required registration processes with factual responses about my personal details
- Handling ICT devices with care and notifying a teacher if it is damaged or requires attention
- Abiding by copyright and intellectual property regulations. If necessary, I will request permission to use images, text, audio and video and cite references
- Not interfering with network systems and security, the data of another user or attempting to log into the network with a username or password of another student
- Not bringing to school or downloading unauthorised programs, including games.

In addition, when I use my personal mobile phone, I agree to be a safe, responsible and ethical user at all times, by:

- Respecting others and communicating with them in a supportive manner; never verbally or in writing participating in bullying (for example, harassing phone calls/text messages, supporting others in harmful, inappropriate or hurtful online behaviours by forwarding messages)
- Keeping the device on silent during class times; only making or answering calls or messages outside of lesson times (except for approved learning purposes)
- Respecting the privacy of others; only taking photos or recording sound or video at school when I have formal consent or it is part of an approved lesson
- Obtaining appropriate (written) consent from individuals who appear in images or sound and video recordings before forwarding them to other people or posting/ uploading them to online spaces.

APPENDIX B:

Acceptable Use Agreement (Page 2)

Definition of Digital Technologies/Acceptable Use Agreement

This Acceptable Use Agreement applies to digital technologies, social media tools and learning environments established by our school or accessed using school owned networks or systems, including (although are not limited to):

- School owned ICT devices (e.g. desktops, laptops, iPads, printers, scanners)
- Mobile phones
- Email and instant messaging
- Internet, Intranet and Ultranet
- Social networking sites (e.g. Facebook, SuperClubsPLUS)
- Video and photo sharing websites (e.g. Picasa, Youtube)
- Blogs
- Micro-blogs (e.g. Twitter)
- Forums, discussion boards and groups (e.g. Google groups, Whirlpool)
- Wikis (e.g. Wikipedia)
- Vod and podcasts
- Video conferences and web conferences.

This Acceptable Use Agreement applies when I am using any of the above digital technologies at school, at home, during school excursions, camps and extra-curricular activities.

I understand and agree to comply with the terms of acceptable use and expected standards of behaviour set out within this agreement.

I understand that there are actions and consequences established within the school's Student Engagement Policy if I do not behave appropriately.

Student Details

Date:/...../.....

Student name:.....

Students Signature:.....

School contact name:

Parent/Guardian A Name:

Parent/Guardian A Signature:

APPENDIX C: SITE UNBLOCK REQUEST FORM

Site Unblock Request Form



Website Address (URL):	
Submitted by:	
Duration of Request	Date start: Date end: Or Permanent Access <input type="checkbox"/>
Educational/Work related reason for request:	
Authorised by:	Name: _____ Signature: _____

Submit form to ICT Manager