



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

Our school utilises the Department of Education's Digital Device and Online Service Policy released for NSW public school in 2020 to support young people to use digital technology in safe, responsible and respectful ways as we prepare students for life beyond the classroom.

Kiama Public School also applies strategies outlined by the NSW Department of Education's Different Ways that Schools Manage Devices Document.

At Kiama Public School:

- Mobile Phones Stored in Administration Office:

Mobile phones are discouraged. However, if a child is to bring a mobile phone to school for safety reasons when travelling to/from school, students are required to hand in their phones to the administration office. Students can collect their devices from the office at the end of each day.

- Device Free Breaks:

Recess and lunch breaks are dedicated device free time and personal devices are to be kept in classrooms during these times unless under the direct instruction of a staff member. Students are reminded of this expectation.

- Devices for Learning:

Devices have a legitimate role for learning in the classroom. Whether it is using a device to capture photo evidence of work samples, access to research, collaborating with peers or for any other educational purpose the teacher deems



appropriate. This approach is supported by clear classroom expectations based on behaviours rather than devices.

- Signed Student Agreement – Bring Your Own Technology - Stage 3 only

To help students demonstrate their responsible use of technology, Kiama Public School requires students to read and sign a student agreement that outlines the school expectations around appropriate and inappropriate use of technology. In signing, students acknowledge the school's expectations and accept the identified consequences for any breaches of the student agreement.

Exemptions

An exemption from parts of this policy or the school procedure can be requested from the principal by parents, carers, school counsellors and other student support staff, and, if required, students themselves. This may cover times when or places where use would otherwise be restricted. Except where required by law, the school principal has discretion to consider and approve exemptions and to choose which parts of the school procedure the exemptions applies. The exemption may be ongoing or for a certain time period.

Consequences for inappropriate use

- The student is reminded of school expectations
- The student is given a warning from a teacher or other staff member
- The student is referred to the Assistant Principal, Deputy Principal and/or Principal
- The student's access to the school network is restricted through the EMU tool on the DoE portal.
- The teacher or principal arranges a meeting with the student's parent/carer
- The student's digital device is confiscated by a staff member and handed into the administration office. This can be collected at the end of the day.
- Suspension and possible Police and/or Child Wellbeing involvement for serious incidents.

Contact between students and parents and carers during the school day

Should a student need to contact a parent or carer during the school day, they must approach 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

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.



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.
- 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 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 new procedure by their classroom teacher.

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 complaints process. If the issue cannot be resolved, please refer to the Department's guide for making a complaint about our schools (<https://education.nsw.gov.au/about-us/rights-and-accountability/complaints-compliments-and-suggestions>).

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



Current as at: March 2020

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.



Appendix 3: Specifications required for bring your own devices – Stage 3 Students

Wireless connectivity:

Devices are required to have wireless connectivity. Students will not be permitted to access 3G, 4G or 5G networks whilst at school on their devices.

Operating system:

PC Laptops and Windows Operating System preferred, Macintosh Laptops, iPads, Android Tablets acceptable. Phones and iPods are not appropriate devices as they are not capable of supporting students' learning to the extent larger devices can.

Software and apps:

Microsoft Office, Microsoft 365 (Accessed through Department of Education Student Account), Google Suite (Accessed through Department of Education Student Account) and the latest version of Google Chrome web browser.

Battery life:

Students are responsible for bringing their devices to school fully charged and labelled for identification. The school can provide labels on request.

Memory and RAM:

Minimum of 4GB of RAM

Hardware features:

**Built in camera*

Other considerations:

1. Devices can only be used at the direction of the class teacher for activities linked to class learning programs. This policy will be reviewed as necessary in collaboration with students and parents.
2. Students will not be required to download paid apps at school. Students may wish to access their accounts AT HOME with PARENT supervision from time to time so that they can download **free** and paid apps.
3. Students have access to Microsoft 365 and Google Docs through their DET account, and it is highly recommended that their devices have a productivity suite installed such as Microsoft Office. These productivity tools will provide the student with the right software for many educational applications and will allow the device to be used to its fullest potential. "Web 2" tools will be utilised where possible.
4. The student will be required to enter school details into their device network settings in order to access the internet through the school's cyber safety filters. Internet access through the school's wireless network will be provided to students free of charge. **Students must not access 3G, 4G or 5G networks whilst at school on their devices.**
5. Students agree to only view, listen to, or access, school appropriate content on their mobile devices while at school. Due to copyright, content such as music is not to be transferred to other devices or the school's computer network. The School Principal retains the right to be the final arbitrator of what is, and is not,



appropriate content.

6. Consequences for breach of this policy will be determined by the Principal and may include banning an individual student from bringing their mobile device to school.
7. Students need to bring their devices every day and are responsible for the care of their devices. While the school will support the students to manage their individual devices the final responsibility will rest with each student.
8. Devices are not to leave or be used outside of the classroom areas unless instructed otherwise by the teacher.
9. Compatible devices must have an appropriate protective cover on them.
10. In the case of any accident or breakage the individual must take responsibility.
11. Taking photos, video or recording voice of any individual or group is not allowed without the consent of all of the individuals being recorded and permission from the teacher.
12. Digital devices are not to be taken/used in the playground (morning, recess and lunch). Students are to deliver their bag to their classroom each morning and leave the room immediately. Digital devices are not be used on the way to or from school, including busses.
13. Students are responsible for bringing their devices to school fully charged and labeled for identification (The school can provide labels on request.)