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Digital Learning – 2027 Requirements for Primary Schools

From the commencement of the 2027 school year, Carnegie Primary School will align its digital learning practices with the Victorian Department of Education's updated Digital Learning Policy.

1. Student use of digital devices

- Foundation–Year 2: Minimal use of digital devices, except when learning about and with digital technologies as required by the Victorian Curriculum F–10 Version 2.0.
- Years 3–6: A maximum of 90 minutes of student digital device use per day, except where use is required by the Victorian Curriculum F–10 Version 2.0.
- Digital device use must be limited, purposeful, teacher-led and carefully planned as part of the whole-school teaching and learning program.
- Digital devices must not become the default mode of instruction. Teachers should select digital or non-digital resources according to curriculum requirements and learning intentions.

2. Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)

- From 2027, schools must not invite or allow families to purchase or bring their own digital devices for students in Foundation to Year 6 to use at school.
- At the school's discretion, students already using BYO devices before 2027 may continue using them until their devices need replacing.

3. Access to digital technologies

- Schools must ensure all students have free access to the digital technologies required to meet curriculum requirements, in accordance with the Department's Parent Payments policy.
- Students must be taught to use digital tools safely, ethically and in alignment with the curriculum.

4. Acceptable Use Agreement (AUA)

- Schools must develop and communicate an Acceptable Use Agreement outlining expectations for the safe, intentional and responsible use of digital devices and tools.
- The Department's AUA templates and implementation guidance should be used to support this process.

5. Exemptions

Exemptions from the primary-school BYOD restrictions and digital device usage limits apply to:

- Students requiring disability-related technology to access, participate in or communicate at school, including augmentative and alternative communication devices.
- Students attending Virtual School Victoria.

6. Implementation at CPS

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CPS will review its current digital learning practices, teaching and learning programs, and student device access arrangements to ensure alignment with the 2027 requirements. Staff and families will be informed of any changes before implementation.

Information for parents

Our commitment to the responsible use of digital technology

At Carnegie Primary School we are committed to building a culture of respect and responsibility. We show this in the way we use technology and interact online. We teach students to use digital devices and tools safely, ethically and responsibly, including how to recognise and respond to online dangers and threats. We support students to develop the digital skills they need to make a positive impact in the world. We make careful choices about when and how we use digital devices and tools. Their use is teacher-led, carefully planned and limited to specific learning goals required by the Victorian Curriculum 2.0, or where they provide a clear advantage over non-digital alternatives.

What we do

	**We set clear expectations** ● We have clear expectations about appropriate conduct using digital devices and tools. ● Our Mobile Phone Policy outlines our school's expectations relating to students using mobile phones during school hours. ● We have clear and appropriate consequences when students breach these expectations, in line with our Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy.
	**We teach appropriate conduct** ● We teach our students to be safe, intentional and responsible users of digital technologies, including age-appropriate instruction on important digital issues such as cybersafety and cyberbullying.
	**We partner with families** ● We work with parents and carers to understand the digital technology-related issues they are facing at home. We support them with information and tools that help.
	**We provide access to technology** ● We provide access to educational software for students to use. ● We create student email accounts which are non-identifiable.
	**We supervise digital learning** ● We supervise students using digital technologies in the classroom. ● We use clear protocols and procedures to protect students working in online spaces.
	**We take appropriate steps to protect students** ● We provide a filtered internet service to block inappropriate content. Full protection from inappropriate content cannot be guaranteed, however, we have processes to report and act on inappropriate content.

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	• We may access and monitor messages and files sent or saved our network, if necessary and appropriate.
	**We appropriately manage and respond to online incidents** • We work to prevent, respond, and learn from issues or incidents relating to the use of digital technology, including cybersecurity incidents, cyberbullying and risks to child safety. • We refer suspected illegal online acts to the police.

How parents and carers can help

Below are our suggestions for ways you can support your children to responsibly use digital technology.

	**Establish clear routines**
	• Talk to your child about expectations including when, where, and how digital devices can be used at home, ensuring these rules are age-appropriate and consistent. These can include:
	  ○ Requiring devices to be used in a common area, such as a living room or kitchen
	  ○ Setting up a specific area for charging devices overnight, away from bedrooms, to promote better sleep hygiene.
	• Be present when your child is using digital devices, especially for younger children who may not yet understand online risks.

	**Restrict inappropriate content** • Use built-in parental controls on devices and apps to help manage their device access and restrict inappropriate content, including apps and websites that are not suitable for their age group. • Consider restricting the use of non-educational apps and apps with addictive game mechanics (e.g. rewards, badges, limited exit options).
	**Talk about online safety** • Talk with your child about the importance of protecting personal information and recognising online scams. • Talk with your child about age restrictions on social media and explore other ways they can connect with their friends online and offline. • Encourage your child to talk to you or another trusted adult if they feel unsafe online.
	**Model responsible and balanced technology use** • Encourage a healthy balance between screen time and offline activities, especially outdoor unstructured play and time with friends and family, face-to-face. ***** • Demonstrate responsible and balanced tech use in your own daily routine to set a good example for your child.
	**Work with us** • Let your child's teacher know about concerns you have regarding their technology use • Keep informed about what your child is learning at school, so you can help reinforce positive messages at home.

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***Australia's physical activity and sedentary behaviour guidelines include the following recommendations for children between 5-17 years-old regarding sedentary recreational screen time:**

- **no more than 2 hours of sedentary recreational screen time per day**
- **avoiding screen time 1 hour before sleep**
- **keeping screens out of the bedroom.**

Source: Australia's physical activity and sedentary behaviour guidelines, https://www.health.gov.au/topics/physical-activity-and-exercise/physical-activity-and-exercise-guidelines-for-all-australians/for-children-and-young-people-5-to-17-years.

Support for parents and carers

To learn more about how to support the safe, intentional and responsible use of digital technologies at home, the eSafety Commissioner provides resources for parents, and outlines available counselling and support services.

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For students

What we expect

Below are our expectations of students at our school when using digital technologies.

Be safe



We protect personal information and keep it safe online.

We do this by:

- Not sharing our password or using someone else's username or password.
- Logging out of our devices when they are not in use.
- Restricting the personal information we post online, including images and videos.

Be respectful



We are kind and show respect to others when using technology.

We do this by:

- Acting with kindness and never bullying others online.
- Thinking about how our words might make others feel before we say or write them.
- Only taking photos or recordings of others when they are aware and have given us permission to do so.
- Seeking permission before sharing others' information online.

Be responsible



We are honest, handle technology with care and follow the school rules.

We do this by:

- Handling devices with care.
- Not interfering with devices, school systems, or other students' work.
- Not downloading or using inappropriate programs like games.
- Not using technology to cheat or steal, and always acknowledging when we use information sourced from others.
- Turning off and securely storing our mobile phone during school hours.
- Not using age-restricted social media, ex to access appropriate content that is available without an account.
- Ensuring a healthy balance between screen time and offline activities at school.

Ask for help



We ask for help if we feel unsure or see something inappropriate.

We do this by talking to a teacher or a trusted adult if:

- We feel uncomfortable or unsafe.
- We see others participating in unsafe, inappropriate, or hurtful online behaviour.
- We notice any damage to school technologies.
- We need help understanding about a digital tool or how it can be used.

Support for students: The e-safety commissioner's eSafety kids page has helpful information to help you stay safe online.

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My ideas on safe and responsible online behaviour

Your task:

- Talk with your classmates and/or your parents about what safe and responsible online behaviour means for you.
- Write or draw your response in the boxes below:

Be safe - I protect personal information and keep safe online. This means I:

(write or draw…)



Be respectful - I am kind and show respect to others when using technology. This means I:

(write or draw…)



Be responsible - I am honest, handle technology with care and follow the school rules. This means I:

(write or draw…)



Ask for help - I ask for help if I feel unsure or see something inappropriate. This means I:

(write or draw…)



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Instructions

- Students are encouraged to speak with their parents or teachers prior to signing this agreement if they don't understand what it means, or if they have questions they would like to discuss.
- Complete the agreement, including parent/carer acknowledgement and return it by [insert date].
- Completed agreements can be [dropped at the front office/given to your classroom teacher/uploaded via the school's online portal].

Student Agreement

_____

(Student name)

I understand and commit to uphold the expectations on me as a student when using digital technology.

I will do my best to:

- **be safe** *to protect personal information and keep safe online.*
- **be respectful** *and kind to others when using technology.*
- **be responsible** *by demonstrating honesty, handling technology with care and following the school rules.*
- **ask for help** *if I feel unsure or see something inappropriate.*

I will continue to learn about how to use digital technology in a safe and responsible way.

_____ _____

(Student's signature *(Date)*

Parent/carer acknowledgement

_____

(Parent/carer name)

I acknowledge your commitment and will support you to safely use and learn about digital technologies.






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