



# Dora Creek Public School Student Use of Digital Devices and Online Services Procedures

## **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 and those using school owned devices. 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**

If a student needs to bring their phone or phone watch to school, they are to hand it into the office. The school takes responsibility and liability for these devices. Students can collect their devices from the office at the end of each day.

## **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 student is referred to the Principal who will follow the school's disciplinary code as necessary.

## **Contact between parents and students through a 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**

- Hand phones or other devices into the front office.
- 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.
- Recognise the role devices 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.

### **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.
- 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:

- Classroom teachers will inform their students about this new procedure.

#### Parents and carers:

- Parents and carers will be advised via the school newsletter.
- Parents and carers will have access to the policy via the school website, Facebook and Class Dojo.

### 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.

## Appendix1: Privacy and Online Services

Please visit the below websites to see relevant privacy information for online platforms that Dora Creek Public School uses within the classroom for facilitating learning: <https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/going-to-a-public-school/privacy-information>

Services included:

Google

<https://policies.google.com/>

Microsoft

<https://privacy.microsoft.com/en-ca/privacystatement>

Sentral

<https://www.sentral.com.au/privacy-policy/>

Class Dojo

<https://www.classdojo.com/privacy/>

## [Appendix 2: 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.
- 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 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.
- 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 at home or at school; and where online contact has flow on consequences at school and duty of care requires the school to respond once an incident is reported.

## Appendix 3: 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 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. When using school devices for online learning at home, our school discipline code will be reinforced.
- 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.

### Be ENGAGED

- 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; and 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; and 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. Devices loaned from the school are still a part of the school's network.