



Student Use of School Owned Digital Technologies Policy

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Introduction

The students at St Benedict's Catholic School are provided with access to a wide range of digital technology resources for learning and communication. Students will be accountable for the appropriate use of these technologies. This policy provides information to support students in understanding the benefits and responsibilities of using digital technologies.

Rationale

The availability of digital technologies provides rich opportunities for schools to help students develop their academic, spiritual, emotional, social, and physical potential. We believe 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 interconnected world. We believe in the role of education to empower students to use digital technologies to reach their personal best and fully equip them to contribute positively to society, now and into the future.

Principles, Values, Understandings

When using digital technologies, students are expected to engage in ways that are consistent with the school's values and in accordance with the teachings of the Catholic Church. Learning and communicating using digital technologies fosters innovation, creativity, collaboration, and problem solving; though must also reflect the high standards of accountability, contribution, truth, dignity, and mutual respect.

Policy Statement

At St Benedict's students use digital technologies for learning-centred activities under guided supervision with specific educational or developmental aims. For the purpose of this policy, digital technologies are defined as any networks, systems, software or hardware including electronic devices and applications which allow users to access, receive, view, record, store, communicate, copy or send any information such as text, images, audio, or video.

Through increased access to digital technologies, students can benefit from enhanced learning that is interactive, collaborative, personalised and engaging. Digital technologies enable 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.

Digital technologies, if not used appropriately, may present risks to users' safety or wellbeing. At St Benedict's we are committed to educating all students to be safe, responsible, and discerning in the use of digital technologies, equipping them with skills and knowledge to navigate the digital age.

Acceptable use of technology may include, but is not limited to:

- using online sites and digital tools that support students' learning
- facilitating, gathering, and disseminating information,
- encouraging collaborative projects and resource sharing,
- assisting technology transfer and fostering innovation,
- supporting education and research,
- personal development, and
- any other tasks that support learning and the school community.

Unacceptable use would include, but is not limited to:

- using the account of another person,
- accessing networks, software, and sites without proper authorisation,
- communicating information concerning passwords, identification codes or other confidential authentication information,
- interfering with or disrupting network users, services, or equipment,
- behaviours which are contrary to the student behaviour policy (including cyberbullying - which is using digital technologies to harass, threaten or intimidate; or viewing/posting/sharing of inappropriate or unlawful content), or
- any actions which infringe child protection legislation, privacy legislation, anti-discrimination laws, copyright laws and other relevant legislation and policies.

Implementation Issues

- St Benedict's will provide opportunities for students to learn about the ethical and moral responsibilities associated with the use of digital technologies.
- Curriculum content and other programs will be in place to educate students to promote safe, responsible and discerning use of digital technologies.
- Students will be educated about issues such as online privacy, intellectual property and copyright, and the importance of maintaining their own privacy online.
- The school will provide a filtered internet service in attempts to limit access to inappropriate content.
- 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.
- Parents and carers will be provided with information to support the safe and responsible use of digital technologies and strategies that can be implemented at home.
- An Acceptable Use Agreement outlining the expectations of students when using digital technologies at school must be complied with by all students.
- Distribution of school owned devices to students and use of digital technologies at school will only be permitted where students and their parents/carers have signed an Acceptable Use Agreement.

Support Resources

[Student Behaviour Policy](https://www.stbenedicts.catholic.edu.au/about/school-policies/) - <https://www.stbenedicts.catholic.edu.au/about/school-policies/>