

# Blackheath Public School

## Digital devices and online services plan

### Purpose and scope

This plan outlines our school's approach to managing student use of digital devices and online services to ensure safe, responsible and respectful use of these. It covers student use of digital devices and online services in school-related settings, including both school-provided and personal devices and services.

Digital devices and online services are an important part of everyday life, shaping the way children and young people learn, communicate, work and play. Learning environments should support students to develop technological, social and emotional competencies. This support should maximise the benefits and minimise the risks of digital environments and prepare students for life beyond school.

For mobile phone management, see the [Student Use of Mobile Phones in Schools](#) policy.

### Definitions

Term	Definition
<b>Digital devices</b>	include laptops, tablets, wearable technology (such as smartwatches and headphones) and other devices that can receive, store, process and share digital information and connect to applications (apps), websites and other online services  For mobile phone management, see the <a href="#">Student Use of Mobile Phones in Schools</a> policy.
<b>Educational purposes</b>	any use approved by school staff that supports student learning, wellbeing and educational outcomes
<b>Online services</b>	include digital classrooms, chat and messaging, online games, virtual reality, interactive online learning activities, social media and other online spaces
<b>School-related settings</b>	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, such as excursions and camps. 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; and where online contact has flow on

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consequences at school and duty of care requires the school to respond once an incident is reported

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## Our school approach

### Using digital devices and online services for educational purposes

At Blackheath Public School, students must not use digital devices or online services on the school grounds (including bus stops and kiss and drop) before and after school; during class, recess and lunch, on excursions and other school events such as camps (unless using school devices which are approved/directed by the teacher).

Should a student bring a digital device to school, the student must store their device at the front office. On arrival at school the student must take their device to the office where it is stored throughout the day. The student should collect their digital device after the afternoon bell.

Student devices are stored securely in the front office throughout the day. The school will take all reasonable care to ensure the safety of devices.

If the use of digital devices and online services is required for medical reasons or for reasonable adjustments made as part of a student's individual education plan, this is permitted.

For mobile phone management, see the [For mobile phone management, see the Student Use of Mobile Phones in Schools](#) policy.

Teacher permission is required before a student can use a school digital device. When using school digital devices, students must not change system settings, download or upload images that are illegal, dangerous, offensive or inappropriate for their age (G or PG-13). Students are not to share their username or password, nor log in to digital devices with another student's account.

### Inappropriate use of digital devices and online services

Should a student breach this procedure, the following consequences may apply:

- A student's digital device will be confiscated, handed into to the school office and can be collected at the end of the day.
- The student will also be subject to a 'Time Out' as part of the school's behaviour management procedures.
- Suspension of a student's ICT network access privileges

### Medical or wellbeing exemptions to digital device use

Exemptions to this plan may apply to some students, and will be considered on a case-by-case basis and granted when required by law or at the principal's discretion.

### Reasonable adjustments for students with disability

Some students require reasonable adjustments to their learning and support needs under the Disability Standards for Education 2005. A disability may include a medical condition impacting a student.

The Principal will consult, as appropriate, the student, and their parents or carers, and any external service providers as needed, in determining the adjustments for the student. Reasonable adjustments may include access to digital technologies to participate in the education on the same basis as a student without disability. This may need to be documented as part of an existing student learning plan, as determined by the principal.

## Our communication approach

Students will be informed about this approach through the communication of this procedure in class and at school assemblies.

Parents and carers will be informed:

- through the school newsletter
- on the school website and Compass.

## Handling complaints

If a student, and parent or carer has any complaints relating to this strategy, the first step is to follow the school's complaints process. If the issue cannot be resolved, they should access the [Making a complaint about our schools](#) guide.

The department's [Complaints Handling](#) policy also provides further information and support for both the school community and staff.

## Changes since previous update <optional>

Last updated	Description of changes	Approved by
07 February 2024	Beginning of year update	Principal