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| Digital Learning (Internet, Social Media & Digital Devices)  (Child Safe) | Logo, company name  Description automatically generated |

**Help for non-English speakers**

If you need help to understand this policy, please contact the front office on 9223-1400

**Purpose**

To ensure that all students and members of our school community understand:

1. our commitment to providing students with the opportunity to benefit from digital technologies to support and enhance learning and development at school including the various programs which allow students one to one access to devices.
2. expected student behaviour when using digital technologies including the internet, social media, and digital devices (including computers, laptops, tablets)
3. the school’s commitment to promoting safe, responsible and discerning use of digital technologies, and educating students on appropriate responses to any dangers or threats to wellbeing that they may encounter when using the internet and digital technologies
4. our school’s policies and procedures for responding to inappropriate student behaviour on digital technologies and the internet
5. the various Department policies on digital learning, including social media, that our school follows and implements when using digital technology
6. our school prioritises the safety of students whilst they are using digital technologies

**Scope**

This policy applies to all students and staff at Charles La Trobe College.

Staff and student use of technology is also governed by the following Department policies:

* [Acceptable Use Policy for ICT Resources](https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/ict-acceptable-use/overview)
* [Cybersafety and Responsible Use of Digital Technologies](https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/cybersafety/policy)
* [Digital Learning in Schools](https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/digital-learning/policy) and
* [Social Media Use to Support Student Learning](https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/social-media/policy).
* Staff also follow our school’s Acceptable Use Policy.

Staff, volunteers and school councillors also need to adhere to codes of conduct relevant to their respective roles. These codes include:

* Charles La Trobe College’s Child Safety Code of Conduct
* [The Victorian Teaching Profession Code of Conduct](https://www.vit.vic.edu.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0018/35604/Code-of-Conduct-2016.pdf) (teaching staff)
* [Code of Conduct for Victorian Sector Employees](https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/code-conduct/overview) (staff)
* [Code of Conduct for Directors of Victorian Public Entities](https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/school-council-conduct/policy) (school councillors)

**Definitions**

For the purpose of this policy, “digital technologies” are defined as digital devices, tools, applications and systems that students and teachers use for learning and teaching; this includes Department-provided software and locally sourced devices, tools and systems.

**Policy**

### **Vision for digital learning at our school**

The use of digital technologies is a mandated component of the Victorian Curriculum F-10.

Safe and appropriate use of digital technologies, including the internet, apps, computers and tablets, can provide students with rich opportunities to support learning and development in a range of ways.

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

Charles La Trobe College believes 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 inter-connected world. Our school’s vision is to empower students to use digital technologies safely and appropriately to reach their personal best and fully equip them to contribute positively to society as happy, healthy young adults.

### **Personal Devices at Charles La Trobe College**

Charles La Trobe College operates with campus specific models, including Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) program and access to College owned devices. Classes at our school are delivered with the use of iPads/tablets/laptop computers.

In the BYOD program, parents/carers are required to provide a device for their child to bring to school. Charles La Trobe College. Charles La Trobe College can refer parents to government or community support programs that may assist them to purchase a device for their child to own.

Where applicable, students are invited to bring their own device to school each day to be used during class time for different learning activities. When bringing their own device to school, students should ensure that it:

* Is fully charged each morning
* Is brought to school in a protective case
* has at least 125 GB of storage
* operates an up-to-date operating system.

Please note that our school does not have insurance to cover accidental damage or loss to students’ devices, and parents/carers are encouraged to obtain their own insurance for their child’s device.

Students, parents and carers who would like more information or assistance regarding our BYOD program are encouraged to contact the college IT Manager on 9223 1400.

### **Safe and appropriate use of digital technologies**

Digital technologies, if not used appropriately, may present risks to users’ safety or wellbeing. At Charles La Trobe College, we are committed to educating all students to use digital technologies safely, equipping students with the skills and knowledge to navigate the digital world.

At Charles La Trobe College, we:

* use online sites and digital tools that support students’ learning, and focus our use of digital technologies on being learning-centred
* use digital technologies in the classroom for specific purpose with targeted educational or developmental aims
* supervise and support students using digital technologies for their schoolwork
* effectively and responsively address any issues or incidents that occur at school or on a school digital platform and have the potential to impact on the wellbeing of our students
* have programs in place to educate our students to be safe, responsible and discerning users of digital technologies, including E-Smart, Cyber Safety, Party Safe, Respectful Relationships and our timetabled curriculum programs.
* educate our students about digital issues such as privacy, intellectual property and copyright, and the importance of maintaining their own privacy and security online
* actively educate and remind students of our *Student Engagement* policy that outlines our School’s values and expected student behaviour, including online behaviours
* have an Acceptable Use Agreement outlining the expectations of students when using digital technologies for their schoolwork
* use clear protocols and procedures to protect students working in online spaces, which includes reviewing the safety and appropriateness of online tools and communities and removing offensive content at the earliest opportunity
* educate our students on appropriate responses to any dangers or threats to wellbeing that they may encounter when using the internet and other digital technologies
* provide a filtered internet service at school to block access to inappropriate content
* refer suspected illegal online acts to the relevant law enforcement authority for investigation
* support parents and carers to understand the safe and responsible use of digital technologies and the strategies that can be implemented at home through regular updates in our regular digital updates, newsletter, information sheets, website/school portal and information sessions.

Distribution of school owned devices to students and personal student use of digital technologies at school will only be permitted where students and their parents/carers have completed a signed Acceptable Use Agreement.

It is the responsibility of all students to protect their own password and not divulge it to another person. If a student or staff member knows or suspects an account has been used by another person, the account holder must notify the IT Manager or classroom teacher immediately.

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. Communications including text and images may be required to be disclosed to law enforcement and other third parties without the consent of the sender.

Information on supervision arrangements for students engaging in digital learning activities is available in our Yard Duty and Supervision Policy.

### **Social media use**

Our school follows the Department’s policy on [Social Media Use to Support Learning](https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/social-media/policy) to ensure social media is used safely and appropriately in student learning and to ensure appropriate parent notification occurs or, where required, consent is sought. Where the student activity is visible to the public, it requires consent.

Our school has established both Instagram and Facebook pages for the school to showcase and promote learning activities and school information. Comments and likes on these pages can be made by parents, students and members of the public. The school monitors comments and removes inappropriate content. Parents are welcome to contact the school if they have any questions or concerns about these social media pages.

In accordance with the Department’s policy on social media, staff will not ‘friend’ or ‘follow’ a student on a personal social media account, or accept a ‘friend’ request from a student using a personal social media account unless it is objectively appropriate, for example where the student is also a family member of the staff.

If a staff member of our school becomes aware that a student at the school is ‘following’ them on a personal social media account, Department policy requires the staff member to ask the student to ‘unfollow’ them, and to notify the school and/or parent or carer if the student does not do so.

### **Student behavioural expectations**

When using digital technologies, students are expected to behave in a way that is consistent with Charles La Trobe College’s *Student Wellbeing and Engagement* policy, and *Bullying Prevention* policy.

When a student acts in breach of the behaviour standards of our school community (including cyberbullying, using digital technologies to harass, threaten or intimidate, or viewing/posting/sharing of inappropriate or unlawful content), Charles Latrobe College will institute a staged response, consistent with our student engagement and behaviour policies*.*

Breaches of this policy by students can result in a number of consequences which will depend on the severity of the breach and the context of the situation. This includes:

* removal of network access privileges
* removal of email privileges
* removal of internet access privileges
* removal of printing privileges
* other consequences as outlined in the school’s *Student Wellbeing and Engagement* and *Bullying* *Prevention* policies.

**COMMUNICATION**

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways .

* Available publicly on our school’s website .
* Included in staff induction and child safety training processes
* Discussed at staff briefings/meetings as required
* Included in our staff handbook/manual
* Included in transition and enrolment packs
* Included as annual reference in school communications
* Discussed at student forums/through communication tools
* Made available in hard copy from school administration upon request

**POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL**

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| Policy last reviewed | April 2023 |
| Consultation | Consultation with with SRC, student leadership groups, School Council, staff and seek feedback direct from parents. |
| Approved by | Principal |
| Next scheduled review date | April 2025 |

**ANNEXURE A: Acceptable Use Agreement**

**Acceptable Use Agreement**

[Here you may include your school’s *Acceptable Use Agreement* (AUA), if applicable. The Department recommends that schools require students to complete an *Acceptable Use Agreement* (AUA), describing behavioural expectations of students to use the internet and digital technology in a safe and responsible manner. It is recommended that teachers work through the behaviours with students before the AUA is sent home for parent discussion and agreement. The [resources tab](https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/cybersafety/resources) of the Department’s Cybersafety and Responsible Use of Digital Technologies policy provides template Acceptable Use Agreements tailored for both primary and secondary schools that may be used as the basis for your own AUA.

The draft AUA for Primary Schools includes space for student input, allowing students to express their own ideas about safe, responsible and ethical behaviour after working through the discussion points. The inclusion of student voice will increase ownership and relevance. It may be included as part of the final Acceptable Use Agreement sent home to parents for discussion and agreement.