



MONTMORENCY SECONDARY COLLEGE

DIGITAL LEARNING POLICY (Internet, social media and digital devices)



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact Montmorency Secondary College.

PURPOSE

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

- (a) our commitment to providing students with the opportunity to benefit from digital technologies to support and enhance learning and development at school including our 1-to-1 personal device program
- (b) expected student behaviour when using digital technologies including the internet, social media, and digital devices (including computers, laptops, tablets)
- (c) 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
- (d) our school's policies and procedures for responding to inappropriate student behaviour on digital technologies and the internet
- (e) the various Department policies on digital learning, including social media, that our school follows and implements when using digital technology
- (f) our school prioritises the safety of students whilst they are using digital technologies

SCOPE

This policy applies to all students and staff at Montmorency Secondary College.

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

- [Acceptable Use Policy for ICT Resources](#)
- [Cybersafety and Responsible Use of Digital Technologies](#)
- [Digital Learning in Schools](#) and
- [Social Media Use to Support Student Learning](#).

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

- Montmorency Secondary College's Child Safety Code of Conduct
- [The Victorian Teaching Profession Code of Conduct](#) (teaching staff)
- [Code of Conduct for Victorian Sector Employees](#) (staff)
- [Code of Conduct for Directors of Victorian Public Entities](#) (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.

Montmorency Secondary 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 Montmorency Secondary College

Montmorency Secondary College operates a Bring Your Own Laptop Device (BYOD) program. Year 7-9 classes at our school are delivered with the use of Laptops. Year 10-12 classes are delivered with the use of Laptop computers.

The College does not have a preferred iPad or laptop supplier and parents are free to choose a supplier that meets their needs.

Technical Specifications:

Please refer to Appendix A of this document for Technical Specifications.

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

Students, parents and carers who would like more information or assistance regarding our program are encouraged to contact the College.

Safe and appropriate use of digital technologies

Digital technologies, if not used appropriately, may present risks to users’ safety or wellbeing. At Montmorency Secondary 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 Montmorency Secondary College:

- 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 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.
- 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 newsletter, information sheets, website/compass portal, and information sessions.

Distribution of school owned devices to students will be made available when students do not have a device and need to borrow a device from the Resource Centre.

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 Department or Assistant Principal 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.

Social media use

Our school follows the Department's policy on [Social Media Use to Support Learning](#) 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.

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 Montmorency Secondary College's Statement of Values, 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), Montmorency Secondary College will institute a staged response, consistent with our student engagement and behaviour policies.

Breaches of this policy by students can result in several 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 college website
- Included in staff induction processes
- Included in our staff handbook/manual
- Discussed at parent information nights/sessions
- Included in student diaries so that it is easily accessible to parents, carers and students
- Included in transition and enrolment packs
- Made available in hard copy from school administration upon request

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	June 2023	
Consultation	Principal Team and School Council 10/5/23 and 14/6/23	
Approved by	 Frances Ibbott Principal	 Matthew Trounce School Council President
Next scheduled review date	June 2025	

APPENDIX A: TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Montmorency Secondary College will do its best to accommodate a range of computer models.

- The College does not support Chrome or Android devices.
- Students will, from time to time, be required to purchase applications that are generally low cost.
- Occasionally it will be possible for the College to purchase apps at the education price and pass the savings onto students.
- Optional: Appropriate adaptors for HDMI and USB-A to allow connection to other peripherals such as external displays and memory sticks

Parents and students should ensure the following:

Laptop:

- Device be brought to school in a robust protective case or sleeve
- Devices will need to have a good battery life (8hrs)
- Smaller and lighter laptops are preferred
- Device has at least 256GB of storage.
- Robust case, sleeve and/or slimline case
- For a PC, the device will need to be running Windows 10 or later
- For a Mac, the device will need to be running MacOSX 13 or later.

Devices should have virus protection software installed. The Department of Education and Training provides virus protection free-of-charge and the College can install this on students' devices if required.

ANNEXURE A: ACCEPTABLE USE AGREEMENT



MONTMORENCY SECONDARY COLLEGE

DIGITAL LEARNING ACCEPTABLE USE AGREEMENT

SCHOOL PROFILE STATEMENT

At Montmorency Secondary College we support the right of all members of the College community to access safe and inclusive learning environments, including digital and online spaces. This form outlines the College's roles and responsibilities in supporting safe digital learning, as well as the expected behaviours we have of our students when using digital or online spaces.

At our college we:

- Have a **Student Wellbeing Engagement Policy** that outlines our college's values and expected standards of student conduct, including consequences for breaching the standards. This Policy extends to online conduct.
- Have programs in place to educate our students to be safe and responsible users of digital technologies.
- Provide information about digital access issues such as online privacy, intellectual property, and copyright.
- Supervise and support students using digital technologies for school-directed learning.
- Use clear protocols and procedures to protect students working in online spaces. This includes reviewing the safety and appropriateness of online tools and communities, removing offensive content at earliest opportunity, and other measures.
 - See: [Duty of Care and Supervision](https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/cybersafety/policy)
(<https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/cybersafety/policy>)
- Provide a filtered internet service to block inappropriate content. We acknowledge, however, that full protection from inappropriate content cannot be guaranteed.
- Use online sites and digital tools that support students' learning.
- Address issues or incidents that have the potential to impact on the wellbeing of our students.
- Refer suspected illegal online acts to the relevant Law Enforcement authority for investigation.

- Support parents and caregivers to understand safe and responsible use of digital technologies and the strategies that can be implemented at home. The following resources provide current information from both the Department of Education & Training and The Children’s eSafety Commission:
 - [Bullystoppers Parent Interactive Learning Modules](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/bullystoppers/Pages/parentmodules.aspx)
(www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/bullystoppers/Pages/parentmodules.aspx)
 - [iParent | Office of the Children's eSafety Commissioner](https://www.esafety.gov.au/education-resources/iparent)
(https://www.esafety.gov.au/education-resources/iparent)

STUDENT DECLARATION

When I use digital technologies and the internet, I agree to be a safe, responsible, and ethical user at all times by:

- Respecting others and communicating with them in a supportive manner.
- Never participating in online bullying (e.g., forwarding messages and supporting others in harmful, inappropriate, or hurtful online behaviours).
- Protecting my privacy by not giving out personal details, including my full name, telephone number, address, passwords, and images.
- Protecting the privacy of others by never posting or forwarding their personal details or images without their consent.
- Only taking and sharing photographs or sound or video recordings when others are aware the recording is taking place and have provided their explicit consent as part of an approved lesson.
- Talking to a teacher or a trusted adult if I personally feel uncomfortable or unsafe online, or if I see others participating in unsafe, inappropriate, or hurtful online behaviour.
- Thinking carefully about the content I upload or post online, knowing that this is a personal reflection of who I am and can influence what people think of me.
- Protecting the privacy and security of my school community by not sharing or posting the link to a video conferencing meeting with others, offline in public communications or online on public websites or social media forums.
- Reviewing the terms and conditions of use for any digital or online tool (e.g., age restrictions, parental consent requirements), and if my understanding is unclear seeking further explanation from a trusted adult.
- Meeting the stated terms and conditions for any digital or online tool and completing the required registration processes.
- Handling ICT devices with care and notifying a teacher of any damage or attention required.
- Abiding by copyright and intellectual property regulations by requesting permission to use images, text, audio and video, and attributing references appropriately.
- Not accessing media that falls outside the College’s policies.

- Not downloading unauthorised programs, including games.
- Not interfering with network systems and security or the data of another user.
- Not attempting to log into the network or online service with a username or password of another person.

Signature:

I understand and agree to comply with the terms of acceptable use and expected standards of behaviour set out within this agreement.

This AUA applies when digital devices and technologies are being used at school, for school-directed learning, during school excursions, at camps and extra-curricular activities, and at home.

I understand that there are actions and consequences established within the school's Student Wellbeing Engagement Policy if I do not behave appropriately.

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent/Carer Name: _____

Parent/Carer Signature: _____

Date: _____