

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 Lowanna College on 03 5127 9200 or lowanna.co@education.vic.gov.au.

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 laptop 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 Lowanna 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:

- Lowanna 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.

Lowanna 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.

Lowanna College endeavors to support parents with securing a laptop by offering a Managed Bring Your Own Device (MBYOD) program. This program sees parents selecting a college approved laptop through the College MBYOD portal and provides a high level of support to these devices.

The devices offered are chosen as they are education specific models that have been designed with students in mind, the build is extremely robust, while staying light and offering specifications that support the student's educational needs.

MBYOD

The MBYOD program means parents purchase a college approved laptop from Learning with Technologies through the MBYOD Portal.

Features of the MBYOD program:

- **Students gain access to the full resources of school network including the colleges ICT Department personnel to provide efficient support (technical, warranty and insurance if applicable)**
- **Laptops are purchased online at a competitive price negotiated with the provider.**
- **Each of the laptops purchased under the MBYOD program has a 3-year Onsite warranty this includes repair at home during the holidays (issue needs to be logged via <https://www.lwt.com.au/warranty.aspx>)**
- **MBYOD models will receive a connection to the college network and have the college software suite installed.**

At additional cost (recommended): Parents have the option to purchase a 3-year insurance policy which covers accidental damage, accidental loss and theft (In the event of a repair or replacement is required, the policy has a \$100 excess charge). The payment of the excess and other cost incurred is the responsibility of the device owner. **This option is selected by default.**

Learning with Technologies will continue to be the MBOYD laptop supplier for 2024. Parents can purchase a laptop from LWT using the Lowanna College Order Portal.

The laptop will be available for purchase via the 2024 MBYOD program are (subject to change and / or availability):

- **Lenovo 500w Yoga Gen 4 Intel N100 (12.2" Netbook designed with robustness in mind for education use. Great for web surfing and document creation. \$860 approx. Inc Insurance)**

Lowanna College follows the Department of Education [Parent Payments Policy Requesting Parent Payments for Digital Devices – One Page Overview](#)].

Personal Devices

Students may choose 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
- Meets the minimum requirements of storage
- operates compatibly with the schools network

Please note that our school 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 BYOD program are encouraged to contact should contact the schools IT department.

Safe and appropriate use of digital technologies

Digital technologies, if not used appropriately, may present risks to users' safety or wellbeing. At Lowanna 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 our school, 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 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
- use clear protocols and procedures to protect students working in online spaces, which includes reviewing the safety and appropriateness of online tools and communities, 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/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 classroom teacher as appropriate, 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](#) 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 Lowanna 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), Lowanna 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
- Made available in hard copy from school administration upon request

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following policies on the Department's Policy and Advisory Library (PAL):

- [Personal Devices - Access](#)
- [Digital Learning in Schools](#)
- [Social Media Use to Support Student Learning](#)

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	25 MAR 2024
Consultation	Staff – 12 MAR 2024 Students (SRC) – 13 MAR 2024 School Council – 13 MAR 2024
Approved by	Adam Hogan
Next scheduled review date	Before March 2026