

# Digital Technology at the Victorian School of Languages

## Acceptable Use Agreement

### About

The Digital Technology (Acceptable Use Agreement) includes information for parents and students about digital technology at the Victorian School of Languages. It outlines behavioural expectations for students and gives students an opportunity to agree to uphold these expectations.

The policy is structured in two parts as follows:

#### For parents:

- **Our commitment** – *This section describes why and how the VSL acts to support the responsible use of digital technologies.*
- **What we do** – *The VSL’s actions to ensure the responsible use of digital technology.*
- **How parents and carers can help** – *This section provides parents and carers with information and practical tips on supporting their children’s use of digital devices at home, to promote safe, intentional and responsible technology use outside of school.*

**For students:** *this will be printed in the F-10 Student Passports and the VCE Student Handbook*

- **What we expect** – *This section describes expected behaviours when using digital technologies. It is recommended that teachers work through the behaviours with students before the Acceptable Use Agreement is sent home for parent discussion and agreement.*
- **My ideas on safe, intentional and responsible online behaviour** – For students to complete.
- **Student declaration** – For students to sign and return to the school.

### Communication

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

- Available publicly on our school’s website [www.vsl.vic.edu.au](http://www.vsl.vic.edu.au)
- Included in staff induction processes and staff training
- Included in staff handbook/manual
- Discussed at staff briefings/meetings
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

### Review cycle and Evaluation








Policy last updated	November 2024
Consultation	School Council Meeting: 13 November 2024
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	2027

## Information for parents

### Our commitment to the responsible use of digital technology






At the Victorian School of Languages, we are committed to building a culture of respect and responsibility. We show this in the way we use technology and interact online. We teach our students about responsible digital behaviours, including how to recognise and respond to online dangers and threats. We support students to develop the digital skills they need to make a positive impact in the world. We are intentional and discerning about our integration of digital tools into the curriculum, providing rich, interactive and personalised experiences, while ensuring a balance with offline learning opportunities.

### What we do

	<p><b>We set clear expectations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We have clear expectations about appropriate conduct using digital technologies.</li> <li>Our <b>Mobile Phone Policy</b> ( <a href="http://www.vsl.vic.edu.au">www.vsl.vic.edu.au</a> ) outlines our school’s expectations relating to students using mobile phones during school hours.</li> <li>We have clear and appropriate consequences when students breach these expectations, in line with our <b>Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy</b>. ( <a href="http://www.vsl.vic.edu.au">www.vsl.vic.edu.au</a> )</li> </ul>
	<p><b>We teach appropriate conduct</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We teach our students to be safe, intentional and responsible users of digital technologies, including age-appropriate instruction on important digital issues such as cybersafety and cyberbullying.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>We partner with families</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We work with parents and carers to understand the digital technology-related issues they are facing at home. We support them with information and tools that help.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>We provide access to technology</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We provide access to educational software for students to use such as: VSL Distance Education Course Page and MS Teams.</li> <li>We create student email accounts which are non-identifiable.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>We supervise digital learning</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We supervise students using digital technologies in the classroom, consistent with our duty of care.</li> <li>We use clear protocols and procedures to protect students working in online spaces</li> </ul>
	<p><b>We take appropriate steps to protect students</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We provide a filtered internet service to block inappropriate content. Full protection from inappropriate content cannot be guaranteed, however, we have processes to report and act on inappropriate content.</li> <li>We may access and monitor messages and files sent or saved to our network, if necessary and appropriate.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>We appropriately manage and respond to online incidents</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We work to prevent, respond, and learn from issues or incidents relating to the use of digital technology, including cybersecurity incidents, cyberbullying and risks to child safety.</li> <li>We refer suspected illegal online acts to the police.</li> </ul>

## How parents and carers can help

Learning about technology and its impacts doesn't stop at the school gate. Below are our suggestions for ways you can support your children to responsibly use digital technology.

	<p><b>Establish clear routines</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Talk to your child about expectations including when, where, and how digital devices can be used at home, ensuring these rules are age-appropriate and consistent. These can include:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Requiring devices to be used in a common area, such as a living room or study area</li> <li>○ Setting up a specific area for charging devices overnight, away from bedrooms, to promote better sleep hygiene.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	<p><b>Restrict inappropriate content</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use built-in parental controls on devices and apps to help manage their device access and restrict inappropriate content.</li> <li>• Consider restricting the use of apps with addictive game mechanics (e.g. rewards, badges, limited exit options).</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Talk about online safety</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Talk with your child about the importance of protecting personal information, recognising online scams, and understanding and adjusting privacy settings on social media.</li> <li>• Encourage your child to talk to you or another trusted adult if they feel unsafe online.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Model responsible and balanced technology use</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage a healthy balance between screen time and offline activities, especially outdoor unstructured play and time with friends and family, face-to-face.*</li> <li>• Demonstrate responsible and balanced tech use in your own daily routine to set a good example for your child.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Work with us</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Let your child's teacher know about concerns you have regarding their technology use.</li> <li>• Keep informed about what your child is learning at school, so you can help reinforce positive messages at home.</li> </ul>

**\*Australia's physical activity and sedentary behaviour guidelines** include the following recommendations for children between 5-17 years-old regarding sedentary recreational screen time:

- no more than 2 hours of sedentary recreational screen time per day
- avoiding screen time 1 hour before sleep
- keeping screens out of the bedroom.

Source: Australia's physical activity and sedentary behaviour guidelines, <https://www.health.gov.au/topics/physical-activity-and-exercise/physical-activity-and-exercise-guidelines-for-all-australians/for-children-and-young-people-5-to-17-years>.

### Support for parents and carers





To learn more about how to support the safe, intentional and responsible use of digital technologies at home, the eSafety Commissioner provides [advice for parents](#), and outlines available [counselling and support services](#).

## For students

*This will be included in the F-10 Student Passports and the VCE Student Handbook for 2025*

### What we expect

Below are our expectations of students at the Victorian School of Languages when using digital technologies.

<p><b>Be safe</b></p> 	<p><b>At the Victorian School of Languages, we protect personal information and keep safe online.</b></p> <p>We do this by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Not sharing our password or using someone else's username or password.</li><li>• Logging out of our devices when they are not in use.</li><li>• Restricting the personal information we post online, including images and videos.</li></ul>
<p><b>Be respectful</b></p> 	<p><b>At the Victorian School of Languages, we are kind and show respect to others when using technology.</b></p> <p>We do this by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Acting with kindness and never bullying or impersonating others online.</li><li>• Thinking about how our words might make others feel before we say or write them.</li><li>• Only taking photos or recordings of others when they are aware and have given us permission to do so.</li><li>• Seeking permission before sharing others' information online.</li><li>• Never using a generative artificial intelligence (AI) tool to upload or generate images of a student, parent, or teacher.</li></ul>
<p><b>Be responsible</b></p> 	<p><b>At the Victorian School of Languages, we are honest, handle technology with care and follow the school rules.</b></p> <p>We do this by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Handling devices with care and not interfering with school-managed networks or security settings, other people's work, or devices we don't own.</li><li>• Following the terms and conditions of any digital tool we use.</li><li>• Not downloading or using inappropriate programs like games, or programs/networks designed to bypass the school's internet and content restrictions.</li><li>• Not using technology to cheat or steal, and always acknowledging when we use information sourced from others or generate content using AI tools.</li><li>• Turning off and securely storing our mobile phone during school hours.</li><li>• Ensuring a healthy balance between screen time and offline activities at school.</li></ul>
<p><b>Ask for help</b></p> 	<p><b>At the Victorian School of Languages, we ask for help if we feel unsure or see something inappropriate.</b></p> <p>We do this by talking to a teacher or a trusted adult if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We feel uncomfortable or unsafe.</li><li>• We see others participating in unsafe, inappropriate, or hurtful online behaviour.</li><li>• We notice any damage to school technologies.</li><li>• We need help understanding about a digital tool or how it can be used.</li></ul>

## Digital technology at the VSL

**Support for students:** For useful information to help you stay safe online, the e-Safety Commissioner provides [information for young people](#), and outlines available [counselling and support services](#).

### My ideas on safe and responsible online behaviour

*This will be included in the F-10 Student Passports and the VCE Student Handbook for 2025*

Your task:

- Talk with your classmates and/or your parents about what safe and responsible online behaviour means for you.
- Write or draw your response in the boxes below:

**Be safe** - *I protect personal information and keep safe online.* This means I:

(write or draw...)



**Be respectful** - *I am kind and show respect to others when using technology.* This means I:

(write or draw...)



**Be responsible** - *I am honest, handle technology with care and follow the school rules.* This means I:

(write or draw...)



**Ask for help** - *I ask for help if I feel unsure or see something inappropriate.* This means I:

(write or draw...)



## Instructions

- Students are encouraged to speak with their parents or teachers prior to signing this agreement if they don't understand what it means, or if they have questions they would like to discuss.
- Complete the agreement, including parent/carer acknowledgement and return it by **[insert date]**.
- Completed agreements can be **given to your language teacher**.

## Student Agreement

*This will be included in the F-10 Student Passports and the VCE Student Handbook for 2025*

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(Student name)

I understand and commit to uphold the expectations on me as a student at the Victorian School of Languages when using digital technology.

I will do my best to:

- **be safe** to protect personal information and keep safe online.
- **be respectful** and kind to others when using technology.
- **be responsible** by demonstrating honesty, handling technology with care and following the school rules.
- **ask for help** if I feel unsure or see something inappropriate.

I will continue to learn about how to use digital technology in a safe and responsible way.

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(Student's signature)

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(Date)

## Parent/carer acknowledgement

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(Parent/carer name)

I acknowledge your commitment and will support you to safely use and learn about digital technologies.

