



St Michael's Catholic School Digital Devices Use Policy (Draft)

Rationale

St Michael's Catholic School recognises the importance of digital devices in enhancing learning while also prioritising students' wellbeing, engagement, and balanced screen time. This policy ensures that digital tools are used purposefully to support student learning, particularly in mathematics, while maintaining a healthy balance with offline activities.

Purpose

- To guide the appropriate use of digital devices during school hours.
- To ensure screen time is **purposeful, structured, and limited**.
- To support the integration of **Maths Whizz** as a tool for mathematics learning.
- To encourage **responsible digital citizenship** among students.

Guidelines for Digital Device Use

1. Device Use in the Classroom

- Devices are to be used for **educational purposes only** during school hours.
- Teachers will incorporate **structured screen time**, ensuring a balance between digital and hands-on learning.
- **Time limits:**
 - **Years 1-3:** Up to **30 minutes per day** on digital learning activities.
 - **Years 4-6:** Up to **45 minutes per day**, inclusive of all learning tasks.
 - Additional time may be allowed for specific projects, research, or teacher-led activities.

2. Use of Maths Whizz

- Maths Whizz is a **targeted support tool** for students identified as needing additional help in mathematics.
- **Recommended usage:**
 - **Years 3-6** students should use Maths Whizz **3-4 times per week** for a maximum of **20 minutes per session** as part of structured maths learning.
 - **Individualised learning paths** will be monitored by teachers to ensure effectiveness.
- Teachers will integrate **offline numeracy activities** to reinforce digital learning.

3. Device-Free Times and Wellbeing

- **No device use during break times** (morning tea, lunch) to encourage social interaction and outdoor play.
- Teachers will plan **screen-free learning activities** throughout the day to ensure a **balance of technology and hands-on experiences**.

4. Responsible Use and Digital Citizenship

- All students must follow the **school's Responsible Digital Use Agreement**.
- Any misuse of devices (e.g., gaming, inappropriate content, or unauthorised use) will result in restricted access and may involve parental notification.

- Teachers will provide **ongoing digital literacy education**, including safe and ethical online behaviour.

5. Monitoring and Review

- Teachers will regularly **review and adjust** device use based on student needs and wellbeing considerations.
- The school will seek **whānau and student feedback** to ensure that digital learning is effective and aligned with student needs.
- This policy will be **reviewed annually** as part of the school's digital learning strategy.

Conclusion

This policy ensures that digital devices enhance learning without over-reliance on screens. It promotes structured use of **Maths Whizz** for targeted maths support while maintaining a **healthy balance of digital and offline learning** at St Michael's Catholic School.

Review: March 2026