Digital Technologies
(Internet, Social Media and Digital Devices)
POLICY

Rationale

The Digital Technologies curriculum enables students to become confident and creative developers of digital solutions through the application of information systems and specific ways of thinking about problem solving. Digital Technologies comprises the hardware and software that enables data to be digitally processed, stored and communicated. Digital Technologies can be used to access, process, manage and present information; model and control events; construct new understanding; and communicate with others. At Karoo Primary School, the use of Digital Technologies is incorporated in all aspects of student learning.

Karoo Primary School understands that digital technologies including the internet, apps, computers and tablets 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 enhanced learning that is interactive, collaborative, personalised and engaging. 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.

Karoo Primary School 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 to reach their personal best and fully equip them to contribute positively to society as happy, healthy young adults.

1. Guidelines

Digital Technologies focuses on providing students with the tools to transform their learning and to enrich the learning environment. The knowledge, skills and behaviours identified for this domain enable students to:

1.1 Develop new thinking and learning skills that produce creative and innovative insights

1.2 Develop more productive ways of working and solving problems individually and collaboratively

1.3 Create information products that demonstrate their understanding of concepts, issues, relationships and processes

1.4 Express themselves in contemporary and relevant ways

1.5 Communicate locally and globally to solve problems and share knowledge

1.6 Understand the implications of the use of Digital Technologies and their social and ethical responsibilities as users of technology.

2. Implementation

Digital technology, if not used appropriately, may present risks to users' safety or wellbeing. At Karoo Primary School, we are committed to educating all students to be safe, responsible and discerning in the use of digital technologies, equipping them with skills and knowledge to navigate the digital age.

2.1 Digital Technologies will be integrated across the curriculum through a variety of teaching approaches and meaningful learning experiences

2.2 Teachers will provide all students with the opportunity to utilise and experience the range of Digital Technologies resources in the school

2.3 The school will use online sites and digital tools that support students' learning, and focus our use of digital technologies on being learning-centred

2.4 Teachers will restrict the use of digital technologies in the classroom to specific uses with targeted educational or developmental aims

2.5 Students will be provided with Digital Technologies tools, skills and strategies to problem solve and support their learning

2.6 Student will be educated on appropriate responses to any dangers or threats to wellbeing that they may encounter when using the internet and other digital technologies

2.7 Parents and carers will be supported to understand safe and responsible use of digital technologies and the strategies that can be implemented at home through regular updates in our newsletter and annual information sheets.

2.8 Continuous monitoring and assessment will be undertaken by teachers to evaluate student's knowledge and understanding of Digital Technologies

2.9 A Digital Technologies (ICT) co-ordinator will be appointed annually. They will identify the needs of the school. They will develop long and short term goals supported by a dedicated budget

2.10 The ICT co-ordinator in consultation with the team (if appropriate) will oversee the purchase and maintenance of hardware, software and support materials

2.11 The ICT co-ordinator will liaise closely with computer technicians employed by the school to make recommendations to support the school's short and long term goals

2.12 Ongoing professional learning will be provided to all staff. The ICT coordinator/ committee will assist and support colleagues in the use and delivery of learning technologies

2.13 The school will remain committed to keeping abreast of new technologies and resources available

2.14 Students will be required to bring a set of headphones for use at school

2.15 Teachers, staff, students and their families will be provided with 'Cybersafety Education' in order to promote the safe and responsible use of Digital Technologies.

2.16 Students and parents will be required to sign the Internet and School Network Acceptable Use Agreement annually

2.17 When using digital technologies, students are expected to behave in a way that is consistent with Karoo Primary School's Statement of Values, Student Wellbeing and Engagement policy, and Anti bullying policy.

2.18 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), Karoo will institute a staged response, consistent with our policies and the Department's Student Engagement and Inclusion Guidelines.

2.19 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:

a)   removal of network access privileges

b)   removal of internet access privileges

c)   removal of printing privileges

d)   other consequences as outlined in the school's Student Wellbeing and Engagement

and Bullying Prevention policies.

3. Evaluation

3.1   The Education Sub Committee and Karoo PS staff will review the effectiveness of the school's Digital Technologies Policy on a cyclical basis in accordance with DET guidelines.