

Student Technology Policy

Purpose

Aurora College is committed to supporting student learning experiences within a highly functioning environment. Our classrooms are reliant on a range of leading-edge technologies from devices to cloud services. We will work with Partner Schools to ensure students have access to suitable technology for Aurora College classes. The Student Technology Policy outlines the rights and responsibilities of students in relation to use of technology in their Aurora College studies.

Terms

Aurora College Device: refers to any technology loaned to students by Aurora College and used as part of their studies in the school environment.

Private Device: refers to any technology privately owned by the student and used as part of their studies in the school environment.

Partner School: refers to the school that the student physically attends.

NSW DoE: refers to the New South Wales Department of Education.

Stage 6: refers to Year 11 or Year 12.

NSW DoE Policies

Students must be aware of the following NSW DoE policies:

Digital devices and online services for students

(<https://education.nsw.gov.au/policy-library/policies/pd-2020-0471>)

The Aurora College Student Technology Policy should be read in conjunction with the above policies.

Related Resources

The following resources have been provided by the NSW DoE for parents and students to understand technology use in schools:

Digital Citizenship

(<https://www.digitalcitizenship.nsw.edu.au>)

Policy (Version 2026/01)

1. *Application*

- 1.1. Students must accept and abide by the Partner School's BYOD and Technology policies. The Aurora College Student Technology Policy applies only to formally time-tabled lesson periods where students are studying Aurora College classes. At all other times during the school day the Partner School policy takes precedence.
 - 1.1.1. If the Partner School does not have a BYOD policy in place, all devices are to be kept in a secure location and not used except for Aurora College related work. A suitable location will need to be organised with the Partner School.
- 1.2. Whilst in Aurora College lessons, students will use their devices exclusively for educational purposes. Activities such as downloading files not related to school-work, playing computer games, or watching movies is not permitted.

2. *Purpose*

- 2.1. Private or Aurora College devices are not to be used to connect to the Aurora College virtual classroom. The Partner School is responsible for providing a suitable device for the purpose.
- 2.2. Private or Aurora College devices are to be used as a supplemental learning tool, providing a platform for students to research, complete classwork and homework, and participate in group activities.

3. *Bullying and Cyberbullying*

- 3.1. Students must be aware of the appropriateness of communications when using school or personally owned devices. Inappropriate communication is prohibited in any public messages, private messages, and material posted online by students.
- 3.2. Students are responsible for all activities conducted online using private or Aurora College devices. All such activities must be conducted in accordance with the NSW DoE Student use of digital devices and online services policy.
- 3.3. Students are not permitted to use any electronic device to record audio or video media or take pictures of any student or staff member without their permission.
- 3.4. Students must not utilise any technology to harass, threaten, demean, humiliate, intimidate, embarrass, or annoy classmates or others in their community. This is unacceptable student behaviour known as cyberbullying and will not be tolerated. Any student who undertakes cyberbullying that disrupts the safety and/or well-being of the school will be subject to disciplinary action.

4. *Safety and Environment*

- 4.1. Students are expected to bring their devices to school each day with a fully charged battery. Students will not have provision to charge devices at school. The use of power cords creates a Work, Health and Safety risk which could lead to injury for staff and students.

5. *Intellectual Copyright*

- 5.1. Students must not copy, transmit or retransmit any material that is protected by copyright, without prior permission from the copyright owner.
- 5.2. Students must ensure that all software installed on the device, including the operating system, is legally and appropriately licensed.

6. *Security*

- 6.1. Students must not create, transmit, retransmit or participate in the circulation of content on their devices that attempts to undermine, hack or bypass any hardware or software security mechanisms that have been implemented by the DoE, Aurora College, or the Partner School.
- 6.2. Students must connect to the internet using the schools wireless network. This will require logging in through the DoE Student Portal. The use of mobile phones or portable hot-spots as a BYOD solution is not allowed.
- 6.3. School internet connections include content filtering provided by the DoE as appropriate. Other internet connections, including home internet, mobile phones, and portable hot-spots, are not included in the DoE content filtering and are the responsibility of the parent to manage.
- 6.4. Students must never reveal their passwords to another student for any purpose. This includes the DoE Student Portal password, and any other associated accounts used to connect to services on the DoE network.
- 6.5. Students are responsible for backing up all data securely. This should be in no less than two separate locations.

7. *Private Devices*

7.1. *Permission to use*

- 7.1.1. Private devices are only permitted for students enrolled in Stage 6.
- 7.1.2. Students enrolled in Stage 6 are still eligible to access a loan device from Aurora College.

7.2. *Damage or loss*

- 7.2.1. Students must take full responsibility for their private devices. Neither Aurora College nor the Partner School is responsible for the security of the device.
- 7.2.2. Students are responsible for the proper care of their private devices, including any costs of repair, replacement or any modifications needed to use the device at school.
- 7.2.3. Students accept full responsibility for the care and use of their private devices. In particular, neither Aurora College nor the Partner School accepts any responsibility for theft or loss of the device, including parts and accessories. Private devices are not covered by the NSW Treasury Managed Fund and no reimbursement will be made for costs associated with device damage or loss for any reason. Families are encouraged to check the details of their personal insurance coverage for events such as loss or damage.

7.3. Support

- 7.3.1. Aurora College will provide limited technical support for private devices if the issue is directly related to student learning activities.
- 7.3.2. Aurora College will not provide support for warranty related hardware faults of private devices.

8. Aurora College Device Loans

8.1. Access to loan devices

- 8.1.1. All students are entitled to request a loan device from Aurora College.
- 8.1.2. Access to a loan device may be terminated if:
 - there is damage caused by negligence, or
 - the student does not bring the device as required to school, or
 - the student does not return the device when requested by the due date, or
 - at the discretion of the Aurora College Principal
- 8.1.3. All material on the device is subject to review by parents and school staff, both of the Partner School and Aurora College. If there is a police request, Aurora College, Partner Schools, and the NSW DoE will provide access to the device and personal network holdings associated with student use of the device.

8.2. Ownership

- 8.2.1. The school retains ownership of the device.

8.3. Damage or loss of equipment

- 8.3.1. All Aurora College devices are covered by a manufacturer's warranty. The warranty covers manufacturer's defects and normal use of the device. It does not cover negligence, abuse or malicious damage.
- 8.3.2. Any problems, vandalism, damage, loss or theft of the device must be reported immediately to Aurora College through your Aurora College Coordinator.
- 8.3.3. In the case of suspected theft, a police report must be made by the family and an event number provided to Aurora College through your Aurora College Coordinator.
- 8.3.4. In the case of loss a witnessed statutory declaration signed by a parent/carer should be provided.

Technical requirements for private devices

Any private devices seeking to access the NSW DoE environment must be compatible with the standards adhered to by the DoE. The following requirements outline the technical specifications necessary.

Mandatory

Wireless: Must have a 5Ghz 802.11n compatible wireless network card. Ensure the card specifically mentions the 5Ghz specification as the alternate 2.4Ghz specification is not supported.

Operating System: Windows 11 (or higher) for Microsoft devices. Mac OS X 14 (Sonoma) or higher for Apple devices. Tablet operating systems, such as iPadOS or Android are not supported.

Storage: A minimum of 256Gb hard drive is required. Solid state drives are recommended, but not required.

Memory: A minimum of 4Gb of RAM is required. For best performance, 8Gb or more is recommended. This will allow for running multiple applications simultaneously with minimal issues.

Screen Size: A minimum of 10 inch screen size is required for Work Health and Safety concerns.

Recommended

Form Factor: Devices must have a dedicated hardware keyboard.

Battery Life: An advertised battery life of six hours is best for a school environment. Be aware that over time batteries will reduce in effectiveness and battery life will reduce. It may be necessary to purchase a second battery (if available) after the first year.

Insurance: It is recommended that devices be covered by the family contents insurance. You should check with your insurance provider to ensure that the device is specifically covered for damage and loss outside the home.

Warranty: A two year (minimum) warranty is recommended. Warranties are generally offered in Return To Base and On-Site. On-site warranties cost more, but bring the technicians to you to fix the device, meaning you are not without a device while it is being repaired. Depending on the device manufacturer this may not be available. Be aware that turn around times for repair may vary, depending on location.