



DGPS Digital Use Policy 2025-2026

Vision & Values

Learning Together, Growing Together

At Dove Green, we are creating a world class British school that promotes a respectful, happy, caring and inclusive community. We strive to prepare all students to become lifelong learners and responsible citizens, ready to meet the challenges of the future. In partnership with families and the wider community, our goal is to create purposeful, enriched opportunities for students that inspire them to become leaders of their own learning and develop the knowledge, critical thinking skills, and character necessary to succeed in an ever-changing world. We are dedicated to providing stimulating learning experiences through an evolving, challenging curriculum, fully reflecting the culture of the UAE and the wider world.

DGPS Way

At Dove Green Private School, we are:

Determined learners
Global thinkers
Positive achievers
Striving for success

Rationale

As a forward-thinking, modern school, Dove Green Private School recognises the importance of technology and computing literacy for all our children, especially the use of portable electronic devices. Our children are using and engaging with technology to support and enhance their learning outside of school. To ensure our children are as prepared as possible for a technology rich future, we have identified the need to make home and school learning more intrinsically linked.

Digital Learning is embedded in the school curriculum and is an integral part of all Teaching and



Learning. The 21st Century classroom has no 'walls' and prepares all young people to participate in a rapidly changing society in which work and other forms of activity are increasingly dependent on an array of technologies. When we embed technology pedagogically, we make it part of all learning experiences, which in turn, develops students, information skills, including the ability to use information sources to help them find, explore, analyze, exchange and present information and to support their problem solving, investigative and expressive work.

An essential part of Digital Learning is the ability to discriminate information and the ways, in which it is used, and making informed judgements about when and how to use different technologies to achieve maximum benefit. Students also develop an understanding of the implications of technology for working life and society. Recognising the rapid pace of technological change, digital safety has been embedded into the curriculum to ensure appropriate and up-to-date coverage of all aspects of online risks, including cyber security, safe use of social media, and prevention of electronic addiction. Digital Learning significantly enhances teaching and learning across the curriculum by enabling rapid access to knowledge, information and experiences from a wide range of sources. It encourages critical thinking and innovation, imagination and creativity, problem-solving, initiative and independence, teamwork and reflection.

Aims and Objectives

Technology is changing the lives of everyone. When we make technology an integral part of every subject, we equip children to participate in a rapidly changing world where work and leisure activities are increasingly transformed by technology. We also focus on developing the skills necessary for children to be able to use information in a discriminating and effective way. Digital Learning skills are a significant factor in enabling children to be confident, innovative, creative and independent learners.

Digital Learning aims to enable children to:

- Promote choice and personalize learning
- Improve investigation skills
- Enhance creativity and improve collaboration skills
- Encourage and support real, student-centered, personalised learning
- Facilitate language and communication skills
- Connect with others on a global scale to discuss common interests and work collaboratively on shared projects
- Develop sound digital citizenship skills in which to help foster safe online learning participation
- Explore a range of ever-changing skills and to spark children's passions.



Acceptable Use

Use of internet and email services by DGPS students is permitted, and indeed encouraged, where such use supports academic progress, in line with the goals and objectives of the school. The DGPS acceptable use policy requires that students:

Use email in an acceptable way

Use Teams in an acceptable way

Do not create unnecessary risk to the school and themselves by their misuse of the internet

Comply with current legislation

Must not have social media apps installed on their device

Must not have VPNs installed on their device

Login credentials must be kept private. Sharing passwords or accessing someone else's account is strictly prohibited.

Accounts must be used for academic and school-related communication only. Personal or unrelated use is discouraged.

Communication through email and Teams must be respectful, clear, and professional at all times.

The school reserves the right to monitor email and Teams usage to ensure compliance with IT policies.

Responsible Use

Internet access must be in support of educational activities only – this includes on the school bus, before and after school and during breaks

All internet access must be via the student wireless network

When using email and Teams, extreme caution must always be taken in revealing any information of a personal nature.

Network accounts are to be used only by the authorised owner of the account for the authorised purpose.

Students must exhibit exemplary behaviour on the network as representatives of the school and community.

Students must not use messaging apps or functions on any device (including smartwatches) to contact parents or others during the school day. All urgent communication must go through the school reception.

Unacceptable Usage

- Accessing the staff and guest wireless networks to bypass security measures
- Use of personal communications systems in school, for activities that are illegal or against



UAE customs, including the use of VPN software

- Taking photos of other students or staff members
- Use of school communications systems for sending chain letters
- Distributing, accessing or storing images, videos, text or materials that might be considered indecent, inappropriate, obscene or illegal
- Distributing, accessing or storing images, text or materials that might be considered discriminatory, offensive or abusive, in that the context is a personal attack, sexist or racist, or might be considered as harassment or bullying
- Accessing copyrighted information in a way that violates the copyright
- Breaking into the school's or another organisation's system or unauthorised use of a password/mailbox
- Broadcasting unsolicited personal views on social, political, religious or other non-school related matters
- Transmitting unsolicited commercial or advertising material (SPAM)
- Undertaking deliberate activities that waste staff effort or networked resources
- Introducing any form of computer virus or malware into the school network
- Accessing another person's email account
- Sharing passwords with other students
- Downloading media files for personal entertainment
- Use of personal hotspots or unauthorized networks on school premises is prohibited to maintain security.

Use of School Media Resources

For some activities students will require access to school media resources that are saved on the school network. These resources will be controlled by the member of staff leading the activity and the students will only have access through a school device. Students are only permitted to use these resources for the purpose they were intended to be used for. They should not:

- Take copies of school-owned photos home or store them on their own devices
- Post them on social media
- Alter the resources

Students who persistently do not follow the procedure will be sanctioned in line with school policy.

Cyber Security

Cyber security is essential to safeguarding our school community. All staff, students, and parents have a shared responsibility to use technology safely, protect personal information, and report any concerns about suspicious activity or online threats.



- All devices must have up-to-date antivirus protection.
- Strong passwords must be used and never shared.
- Personal and school data must be stored securely in line with UAE data protection standards.
- Phishing awareness and cyber hygiene education will be embedded in lessons.

Bring your own device

BYOD refers to any device that is personally owned and not provided by the school but is used to access the school's network. This section of the policy outlines clear guidelines and procedures for students using their own devices on campus, aiming to promote safe usage and protect the integrity of the school's network.

- Students are fully responsible for the upkeep, security, and proper use of their personal devices. The school does not offer technical support for personal devices and is not liable for any loss, damage, or theft of personal data.
- Personal devices must connect only to the designated student Wi-Fi network. Accessing unauthorized networks (SSIDs) is strictly forbidden.
- Devices must have up-to-date antivirus software, and users are expected to keep their operating systems and applications regularly updated to minimize security risks.

The school may monitor network activity to ensure safe and compliant use. Any breach of this policy may lead to restricted access and disciplinary measures in line with school regulations.

Use of Mobiles Phones

In line with the Knowledge and Human Development Authority (KHDA) guidelines, we do not permit the use of mobile phones during the school day. This decision is based on both educational research and local regulations that aim to support student wellbeing and academic success.

Benefits of a Mobile-Free School Environment

- **Improved Focus and Academic Performance**
Without the distraction of phones, students are more engaged during lessons, resulting in better comprehension and academic performance.
- **Enhanced Social Interaction**
Break times offer students valuable opportunities to build friendships and develop interpersonal skills — something that is greatly improved when not mediated by screens.
- **Reduced Anxiety and Social Pressure**
Limiting phone use at school reduces exposure to social media, cyberbullying, and the



pressure to constantly stay connected.

- Encouragement of Responsibility and Independence
Students learn to manage their time and responsibilities without relying on digital reminders or external validation through apps and messages.

We understand that some students may need to bring a mobile phone to school for safety reasons, especially if they travel independently or need to contact a parent or guardian after school. In such cases, students must follow the procedure below.

- Any student wishing to bring a mobile phone to school will need to purchase a secure pouch from reception.
- Students must switch off their mobile phones and place them in a pouch
- The pouch is locked in the morning upon arrival to school
- The pouch remains locked until the end of the day

Any phone used or out during the school day will be confiscated and a parent will need to collect it. Students who persistently do not follow the procedure will be sanctioned in line with school policy.

Smartwatches are not permitted in Primary. In Secondary, smartwatches may be worn for timekeeping, but must not be used for messaging, calling, or internet access during the school day. Where possible, messaging functions should be disabled.

Electronic Addiction

The school recognises the growing risks of electronic addiction and the impact excessive screen time can have on students' well-being, learning, and social development. We are committed to promoting healthy and balanced use of technology both in and out of school:

- Students will be taught strategies for balanced screen time and healthy digital habits.
- Parents will receive guidance to monitor device use at home.
- Digital wellbeing will be integrated into wellbeing sessions.

Parent Partnership

To ensure the safety of all children and avoid disruption to learning, we kindly remind parents not to message or call their children during school hours. All communication should go through the school reception.

As a school, we greatly appreciate the support of our parent community in helping us use technology positively, to enhance learning and keep our students safe. It is therefore important that parents carefully read, understand, and follow the program outlined above.



Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Seeley", with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

Print Name: Christopher Seeley

Designation: Principal DGPS

Date: June 2025

Next Review: June 2026