



Ruawai College

Next review: Term 1 2029

Digital Technology and Online Safety

Ruawai College is committed to providing a digital and online environment that is physically and emotionally safe, inclusive, and free from racism, discrimination, and bullying (Education and Training Act 2020 and Health and Safety at Work Act 2015). We recognise the vital role of **digital technology** in learning and how it impacts student wellbeing, so we take all reasonably practicable steps to ensure its safe and responsible use. Our strategies aim to **prevent digital incidents** and maintain student wellbeing and safety both at and outside the school.

Our digital technology policies and procedures apply to every member of the school community using digital technology, including staff, students, parents/caregivers, volunteers, contractors, visitors, and the board. They apply to digital technology owned by the school or owned privately and used at school or any other location for a school-based activity. They also include off-site access to the school network if applicable.

Our approach to digital technology aims to reduce barriers to education for all students. Ruawai College supports students to access the resources needed to participate in online learning. We recognise that although a student may have a device, their internet access may be limited.

Safe and responsible use of digital technology

In keeping with our whole-school approach to student wellbeing, Ruawai College promotes safe and responsible use of digital technology as a shared responsibility.

Ruawai College is a Netsafe School, which means the school has completed a Netsafe Schools Review and joined Netsafe's programme to establish, develop, and promote online safety, citizenship, and wellbeing in the school community.

At Ruawai College, we maintain a safe and responsible digital environment by:

- setting and sharing clear requirements and expectations about acceptable and unacceptable digital use
- ensuring that members of the school community commit to these guidelines by signing the appropriate use agreement outlining requirements and expectations
- reviewing these digital technology use agreements annually
- educating students about the digital world, including understanding privacy and copyright laws, staying safe online, and protecting digital devices
- encouraging our students to be confident, capable, and competent in their use of digital technology by supporting them to:
 - develop digital literacy skills
 - be aware of digital technology challenges and manage them effectively
 - demonstrate honesty, integrity, and ethical behaviour in their use of digital technology in line with digital citizenship
- using helpful resources (e.g. Netsafe) and supporting staff training and professional development

- encouraging students and staff to continue practising positive digital technology behaviours when not at the school.

We also create a safe digital and online environment through these supporting policies:

- **Staff Social Media**
- **School Social Media**
- **Computer Security and Cybersecurity**
- **Privacy Policy**
- **Public Sharing of Personal Information**
- **Surrender and Retention of Personal Digital Devices**

The school maintains the right to monitor, access, and review digital technology use on school equipment and the school network, including school-owned email accounts. Any devices that students bring to supplement learning have the same restrictions as the school computers once added to the school network. This means that harmful websites are monitored and/or blocked while the device is using the school network.

Breaches

We respond to breaches of our digital technology and online safety policy using our guidelines in **Behaviour Management, Responding to Digital Incidents**, and our **Concerns and Complaints Policy**, as appropriate.

The principal assures the board that **Digital Technology and Online Safety** policies to promote internet safety and prevent bullying are being implemented correctly. The principal reports on any breaches in digital safety. See **Review Schedule and Board Assurances**.

Related policies

- **Responding to Digital Incidents**
- **Recording Photos, Video, and Sound**
- **Bullying and Harassment**
- **Copyright**
- **Distance Learning**
- **Personal Property and Insurance**

Legislation

- Education and Training Act 2020
- Health and Safety at Work Act 2015
- Harmful Digital Communications Act 2015
- Privacy Act 2020

Resources

- Ministry of Education | Te Tāhuhu o te Mātauranga
 - **Digital Technology – A safe-use guide for schools** 
 - **Home internet access** 
- Netsafe
 - **Helping New Zealand Stay Safe Online** 
 - **Social Media Safety** 

Release history: Term 4 2025, Term 1 2024, Term 1 2023, Term 4 2022, Term 2 2020

IN THIS SECTION

- Digital Technology Use Agreements
- Responding to Digital Incidents
- School Social Media
- Cellphones and Other Personal Digital Devices
- Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)
- Generative AI

Last review	Term 1 2026
Topic type	Core