

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY POLICY

Policy Statement

At Highgate School Outside School Hours Care (Highgate OSHC), we aim to provide a quality program that is child led, follows children's interest, is engaging and exciting for the children. We recognise that technology is often used within our environment and society and many children have regular access to technology at home and at school. The service aims to support students in the appropriate use of technology to support learning, sharing and development.

We also recognise the Australian Government Department of Health's 24-hour movement guidelines for children and young people (5 to 17 years) recommends limiting screen time to no more than 2 hours a day for this age group. We acknowledge that children are frequently in contact with digital devices outside of our service and seek to limit its involvement in our leisure program. Families use technology to sign their children in and out of the service and educators use technology to take photos, observations, and administrative duties whilst on shift.

Before School Care

During Before School Care, no technology is to be used by children.

After School Care

During After School Care, children who have a school issued laptop (Year 4 to Year 6) are able to use their device to complete homework as set by their teachers. Once homework is completed, educational and school approved games may be played on their laptops. Use of their laptops is only permitted in the dedicated 'Seniors Club' space after the afternoon meeting has been conducted and prior to 4:30pm. At 4:30pm all children will be asked to put their laptops away. The educator assigned to the 'Seniors Club' space will monitor laptop activity to ensure it is in line with this policy and appropriate.

Vacation Care

During Vacation Care, no technology is available to children unless it is specifically programmed as such. Excursions to the cinemas will be carefully planned and the film choice considered for its content and relevance prior to its selection. Occasionally a movie may be put on in the late afternoon at the discretion of Director/Assistant Director. This will be a movie with a rating of 'G' or 'PG' and will be played in an appropriate space. There will always be other activities for the children to choose when such entertainment is on. Upon booking into Vacation Care, parents/guardians give permission for their children to view 'G' or 'PG' movies. Any child who does not have such permission will be asked to choose an alternative space to play in. Children are briefed on the content of the film before it begins and are given the option of whether or not they wish to view the material.

Inclement Weather

In the event of weather that prevents the service from using outdoor spaces (wet weather or extreme heat), a movie with a rating of 'G' or 'PG' may be played in an appropriate space. There will always be other activities for the children to choose when such entertainment is on. Upon enrolment at the service parents/guardians give permission for their children to view 'G' or 'PG' movies. Any child who does not have such permission will be asked to choose an alternative space to play in. Children are briefed on the content of the film before it begins and are given the option of whether or not they wish to view the material.

Personal Devices

Children's personal devices are not allowed at the service, except where they support medical needs such as diabetes monitoring. This includes (but is not limited to) mobile phones, smart watches, tablets and video game consoles. Where children bring personal devices into the service, they will be stored securely in the OSHC office until the child is collected. Exceptions may be put in place at the discretion of the Director where the program permits e.g. 'Digital Afternoon'. The service is not responsible for any loss, theft or damage to items brought into the service.

Mobile Phones

Children are not permitted to have mobile telephones or other similar devices on their person during OSHC hours for the purpose of being contactable. If anyone needs to contact a child for any reason, they may do so via the service's telephone number. Should a child wish to contact a parent/guardian at any time, they must speak to the Director/Assistant Director who will contact the parent on their behalf at their discretion.

Approved by Highgate School Governing Council 15th February 2021

DATE OF EFFECT: 22nd February 2021

REVIEWED: 20th March 2022, 31st October 2022

TO BE REVIEWED: 31st October 2023

Related Documents

<http://www.acecqa.gov.au/national-quality-framework/national-law-and-regulations/national-regulations>

Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011

National Quality Framework Areas 1, 2, 3, 4, 6

Australian Government, Department of Health (2019) Australian 24-Hour Movement Guidelines for Children & Young People (5-17 years)