



EMIRATES INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
MEADOWS

Digital Learning Policy



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Rationale

We are living in an increasingly globalised and competitive world which, in turn, means that we need to equip our students with the knowledge, skills and expertise to be successful and responsible citizens. Emirates International School – Meadows is dedicated to providing a learning environment that gives access to appropriate technology in order to enhance learning, unlock potential and connect students both locally and globally. We ensure that all members of our school community have access to high-speed internet in all areas of the school.

Our students are supported in their digital learning with a device of their choice – school hardware or a device brought in from home – so that they are given the best opportunities to develop the necessary skills and literacy to thrive in the digital age.

Student-centred learning is a key value of any IB School and our Digital Learning Policy helps support this by giving students more opportunities to take responsibility for their own learning and to develop the attributes of the IB Learner Profile.

Aims

The students at EIS-M are *digital-natives*. For them, technology is part of the environment in which they are growing up, rather than just a resource as it was for previous generations. Our aim at EIS-M is for all of our students to learn *with* technology, rather than learning *from* technology.

The use of technology at our school supports and promotes key learning skills, including:

- Accessing, filtering and processing information;
- Planning and organising;
- Making choices and decisions;
- Facing challenges and problem-solving;
- Risk-taking and overcoming challenges;
- Collaborating and sharing;
- Communicating;
- Being creative and innovative;
- Being Reflective;

Learning and Teaching

Programmes of work are progressively planned to develop knowledge and skills in ICT and digital technologies and used to enhance learning in other curricular areas.

Students use digital technologies in a variety of ways to access and enhance learning and teaching, and as a tool for assessment. Appropriate support and differentiation is considered when planning and delivering lessons.

For our younger learners there is a focus on device care and understanding the need for device-free time, the devices themselves being utilised for shorter focused learning activities.

Professional Development

All staff are given opportunities to develop and enhance their knowledge and skills through a planned programme of continued professional development which is specifically tailored to their needs. They often lead on this, sharing ideas and good practice with colleagues.

Communication with Parents and Carers and School Stakeholders

We use digital technologies and social media to communicate with our parent community and other school stakeholders.

Please see Appendix A for a breakdown of contact methods.

Cyber Safety

All students and their parents are expected to read and sign the Bring Your Own Device Application Form/ Digital Learning Agreement. This document is designed to inform students and parents of their roles in the responsible use of ICT equipment and access to the internet and email. It is also to guide students in the safe use of technologies which support and enhance their learning.

Our students are taught about the issues relating to Cyber Safety as part of their ICT lessons and Cyber Safety Weeks throughout the Academic Year. We use age and stage-appropriate resources and also guide parents to a range of appropriate digital citizenship websites so that both school and home are able to deliver a consistent message to our students.

EISM will ensure that all students and parents are aware of the implications of any cyber bullying incidents and that it is a criminal activity and must be reported to Dubai Police by the victim. School should be informed and updated throughout this process.

(Refer to current UAE law regarding digital crimes)

Responsibilities and Security Issues

At EISM we have guidelines for the safe use of computers, tablets and other digital technologies. Our ICT Department provide the necessary support and advice to ensure that all resources are used appropriately.

Clear guidance is given to all staff regarding appropriate electronic communication with school stakeholders. School Twitter and Facebook accounts, and the School Website are updated by designated senior leaders.

Parents/Carers are able to opt out of child photographs or videos which may be used for educational purposes or for social media.

Policy updated: October 2020

Next review: October 2021

Appendix A Digital Communication

Communication Tool	Communication Type	Activity
School Website	The school website provides both information about EISM and promotes the school to a wider audience. It also has a regularly updated area giving information and current awareness to parents. The website provides access to the school's policies and curriculum information.	Content is updated when required.
Social Media	The school recognises the impact of social media in ensuring that all members of its local and wider communities are kept fully abreast of daily happenings. The EISM Twitter, Facebook and Instagram accounts are maintained regularly to ensure that there is depth and breadth of coverage across all areas of the school.	Content is updated when required.
Zoom	Zoom is an app which enables students and teachers to continue learning through live meetings. Zoom is also utilised to arrange Parent - Teacher Conferences throughout the school year. In order to join and access Zoom lessons students must adhere to the class Essential Agreement.	Dependent on registration into Face To Face or Distance Learning classes.
Seesaw/ Google Classroom	Seesaw and Google Classroom are tools that provide students, parents and teachers with access to learning activities. Seesaw and Google Classroom are not messaging apps for essential information. Parents should continue to use email and phone calls to convey urgent or important information to teachers.	Content is updated when required.
Class Dojo	ClassDojo is an app which enables teaching staff to encourage students for any learning skills or value such as working hard, being kind, helping others or showing respect. This information can be shared with parents so that they are fully engaged in the process. Class Dojo is not a messaging app for	Daily

	essential information. Parents should continue to use email and phone calls to convey urgent or important information to teachers.	
Managebac	Managebac is used in both Primary School and High School in order to access individual students' Academic Reports in Term 1 and Term 3. Managebac is one of the key methods of communication in High School. Programmes of study, Home Learning, assessment outcomes and feedback are shared on this platform, as well as access to an updated calendar.	Daily in High School