

Partnership with Parents

BYOD IPad

Internet Security



Over the last years we have made many improvements to our resources in IT which is helping us as we strive to deliver an excellent integrated computer program in our school. The school internet is monitored by a security system and we have firewalls in place, but what happens when the students are at home? Are they protected there? Information Technology has changed rapidly and it is often hard to keep up. With the information provided here we want to bring some areas of concern to your attention and offer some solutions as our love and care is not limited to the school grounds we want to keep all our families safe and well informed.

There are several different layers to Cyber Safety

1. First the Operating System filters can be set so a specific machine will only allow certain activities.
2. Then security settings can be set on a Web browser level and then once online
3. The individual search engine filters can be set to restrict access to certain sites.

Exactly how to do this varies from device to device and I have provided some links to the most common and most interesting sites.

When thinking about Cyber Safety it is important to not only think about iPads or laptops or computers, but all devices that access the internet and allow interaction via the web such as the Xbox, Wii, routers and so on. Routers or modems are an excellent place to start. You will most likely have to contact your internet provider to adjust the settings, but it is well worth it so you can control right at the entry point what reaches your family.

If your device has 3G and we strongly advise against a 3G device you have to be very diligent in setting up the restrictions on the device as no modems or routers are required and the mobile phone network is used. 3G devices are not appropriate for Primary School children.

Cyber Safety not only extends to the interaction with other people, but includes the physical side of a growing child. Too much time spent in front of a screen that is displaying a rapid succession of pictures eg movies, youtube videos, games and TV is not good for the neuron transmitters in the brain. It stimulates the pleasure centre which in turn releases hormones and addictions are made possible. This kind of screen time should be limited to 2 hours a day maximum. Reading an e-book, writing, Sudoku, word find or other activities on an electronic devise that does not include rapid colour and picture changes affect us in a different way and can be done for longer periods. However when using electronic devises the person is stationary and this prevents physical activity. Posture is another issue faced by many parents as most kids slouch after spending time before a screen.

Setting firm rules around using an electronic device is necessary to keep your child safe in all areas:

1. Set the time children spend in front of a screen.
2. Only permit children to use the device in “public” areas eg lounge, kitchen.
3. Talk, talk, talk to your child about what they are doing and what apps they are using. Whom they are friends with online or disable that function.
4. The device is not to be in the bedroom over night! But recharging in a public area.

The last point is really important because research has shown that the majority of teens no longer have enough sleep as they spend time during the night on the devices. Shocking stats have been released by Telecommunication Companies about the amount of message “trafficking” during the night on underage mobile phones, tablets, laptops and computers accounts. Start introducing good habits now so the teen years will be a breeze, well in theory anyhow.

The Australian Government Department of Broadband, and the Digital Economy websites:

www.staysmartonline.gov.au

www.cybersmart.gov.au

Web browser filtering

Internet Explorer: <https://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/bb457144.aspx>

Mozilla Firefox: www.mozilla.org/security



Search engine filtering

Google Safety tools: www.google.com.au/familysafety/tools.html

Yahoo SafeSearch: <http://help.yahoo.com/l/us/yahoo/search/basics/indexing-07.html>