



## Lindfield Learning Village Technology Update

At Lindfield Learning Village we prioritise the voice of our students in making decisions about how we will work together at school. We also prioritise the safety of every student and recognise the need for students to learn to self-regulate their use of technology throughout their day, not only at school.

We want to inform you of the process we have followed thus far. The information below has been compiled by the student team who have been working on the solutions to issues raised about technology use.

### What have we done? (from the student team)

**Problem:** We understand that parents are concerned about device usage at school. This is a completely understandable concern for your children's safety and well-being.

The issue has been narrowed down to two main things: Inappropriate Content, and Overuse of Devices, which could cause other issues.

We have gone through a process of rigorous research, consultation with various students and problem solving to see how we can best attack these concerns. This process is not complete and will continue to be altered, tweaked, and changed.

**Current solution:** However, our current solution is 'No Tech' Zones.

'No tech zones' are places where technology use is strongly discouraged, it's a place where students are encouraged to talk and play instead of spend all their time on technology. Quiet zones are places designed to let students calm down relax without being pressured to talk and socialise. 'Tech zones' are designed to be a place to use technology for educational purposes.

**Mobile Devices:** The school doesn't encourage students to bring mobile phones to school, however sometimes it's necessary that kids do so for safety reasons. The No Tech Zones do apply to mobile phones and students haven't been using their phone in these zones.

### Our observations

- Students are using the tech-free zones appropriately. Technology is only being used in the "Tech Zones".
- The vast majority of students are not using technology during break times. Data collected indicates that approximately 11% of the students (about 40 students) are using technology during breaks and these (almost exclusively) tend to be students in Stage 2 and 3. Therefore, it does not appear to be the influence of older students as much as the excitement of having a new device.
- Observations from previous experience has shown that the excitement of having a new device wears off after the first term and we tend to see fewer students using technology outside of class time.
- In the observations made at break times there were only 7 students who were using their technology to play a game that was not of educational value. A general indication of how

technology was being used included: Maths Space, “Cool Maths Games”, Minecraft and students continuing with work they had started in class time.

#### What can we do next?

Our student team have compiled a series of ideas that we can trial. Some of the ideas are:

- No Tech ‘T’ days – Students don’t use technology at all during breaks on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
- We have limited space to use technology, but another idea would be to only allow technology to be used in the second half of lunch time and not at recess or eating time at lunch.
- The most important thing for us to do is to continue the conversation with all students so that we reach a shared understanding of what is acceptable in terms of technology use at school. Educating students on the potential dangers of being online and being aware of their “digital footprint” is also an ongoing aspect of the educational approach that we will be taking to technology use.

#### What can you do as a parent?

If you have chosen to buy your child a phone for safety reasons but are concerned about how they may be using it at school, there are a variety of Apps that you can use to limit their access. Here are some suggestions:

- Parental Control/Family Time - Includes a small cost
- Family Link- Includes a small cost
- Screen Time - Free (under settings on iPhones)

The school is very conscious about the use of various forms of social media by parents to have discussions about this and other topics related to the school. It is important that parents are aware of the potential for this form of communication, where opinions are shared but are not necessarily informed by the school, to cause unnecessary stress for both parents and staff.

Please be assured that the school is aware of what we need to do to collaboratively establish processes and procedures. We are working with your child to empower their voice in this process so that the decisions made are understood and owned by all and therefore much more effective in terms of final implementation BUT this takes time. We are being very deliberate in this process because we believe it is important.

#### Useful information:

- The Department of Education fire wall is extremely robust and restricts student access to many sites including YouTube. They cannot access any site which may be considered inappropriate.
- Minecraft is a program that is used frequently in schools as it has great educational value across a variety of areas including Maths and Engineering. We have a number of teachers at school who are Minecraft experts.