Mobile phones and technology -

At Lindfield Learning Village we 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.

There are polarising opinions on whether mobile phones should be banned in schools. At LLV we prioritise teaching students to be responsible users of all forms of technology. We understand that technology, including mobile phones, offer incredible opportunities for learning but can also have the potential to be a negative influence.

We will work with students to support them to find a healthy balance in their use of technology which is appropriate to their age and stage of development. They will be taught digital literacy, allowing them to thrive in a technological world but will also be educated in digital citizenship and cybersafety.

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
- · Qustodio 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.

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 whilst on the Department of Education wifi.

- · 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. There are setting within Minecraft which restrict access to violent games.

- · Here is a site that the student team discovered in their research on the topic: http://www.digitalnutrition.com.au/heres-an-alternative-to-banning-smartphones-in-high-schools/