

Advice to Parents

Use of the device after hours should be subject to the parental supervision in the home. The College does not accept responsibility for monitoring the manner in which the device is used after hours.

Be Informed

Be informed about the risks and benefits of Internet access. Understand about instant messaging, forums, personal spaces like Twitter and Facebook. ***The College has stressed to the students that the Internet is anonymous and you never know who you are speaking to, that personal spaces are open and easily accessible to all and that personal information should never be published for the whole world to see.*** Students should not publish schedules of their activities or exchange information.

Be In View

Where possible have your son's or daughter's device in view. Try to keep Internet activity in an active and well visited part of the home. It is easier to be informed and interested when you can see the sites they are surfing, the friends they are making and talking to, or the spaces they are creating. This also limits access to inappropriate and unacceptable sites.

Be Interested

Be interested in what your child does on their computer and who they are talking or chatting to. Parents should ask their child to show their spaces and their work. ***Discuss with them the risks of revealing personal information such as their name, address or photos. Explain to them the dangers of meeting in person the "friend" they have met on the net.***

Bridging the gap between home and school

At school the Internet is mostly used to support teaching and learning. However, it is often used differently. Not only is it a study resource for students, but it is increasingly being used as a social space to meet and chat. If you have the Internet at home, encourage your child to show you what they are doing online.

At home it is recommended that you:

- Find out how your child uses the Internet and who else is involved in any online activities.
- Have computers with Internet access in a shared place in the house – not your child's bedroom.
- Ask questions when your child shows you what they are doing, such as:
 - o How does it work and how do you set it up?
 - o Who is else is sharing this space or game? (do you know them or did you 'meet' them online?)
 - o Can you see any risks or dangers in the activity - what would you say to warn/ inform a younger child?
 - o What are you doing to protect yourself or your friends from these potential dangers?
 - o When would you inform an adult about an incident that has happened online that concerns you? (Discuss why your child might keep it to themselves.)

Statistics show that students will not approach an adult for help because:

- They might get the blame for any incident.
- They don't think adults "get" their online stuff.
- They might put at risk their own access to technology by either: admitting to a mistake or highlighting a situation that might lead a parent to ban their access.