



November 24th, 2021.

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Please find below information in relation to what is required for next year for our BYO device program at St. Raphael's Primary School.

As a certified registered eSmart school, we take online safety and technology use very seriously, and are committed to ensuring the children in our care have the safest digital learning environments. We recognise that we live in a rapidly evolving digital world where communication and information is readily accessible online using a variety of technologies and tools. St. Raphael's Primary School recognizes that digital technology is an integral part of life, and it also plays a role in learning. The school needs to ensure that staff, students and the school community engage in these technologies appropriately, legally and ethically. The school also needs to ensure there are levels of protection of child safety in the use of any technology in the school. Digital technology is used to effectively find, analyse, create, communicate and use information to enhance staff and student learning and to engage the school community.

The BYO device that you choose to purchase for your child to use at school is up to your own discretion. The preferred choice for most children is an iPad (64GB or greater is recommended). However, some students have chosen to use a Chromebook or similar. What we request of the parents when they choose a device for their child is to ensure that it has a working camera and it can connect to the internet to access the Google Suite (*Google Classroom, Google Docs, Google Slides, Google Sheets, Google Drive, Gmail and Kahoot*). Students will also be required to bring headphones with an attached microphone.

Restrictions

It has come to our attention that a number of the students have come to school with their device having restrictions enabled from home. Whilst we fully support the e-safety of your child, as well as encouraging them to put their screens down for learning and play, the device allows for the students' learning to be supported through ICT programs. Having restrictions enabled during class time may result in your child not being able to fully complete the required work. Our servers at school have very strict filters and restrictions enforced, preventing any student from accessing inappropriate material and content. St Raphael's have enforced further management systems and firewalls to assist your child's safety whilst online.

Further information relating to restrictions and parental control of devices can be found at the link <https://support.apple.com/en-au/HT201304>. An ideal setting is to use the "Downtime" feature, which allows users to enforce restrictions during specific times.

Information and Technology Policy and User Agreement

At the beginning of each year, a student policy and user agreement is sent to every child in the school. This is a contract between the school and your child to use ICT correctly and for its intended purposes. Further information regarding the policy, user agreement and support with ICT will be sent at the beginning of next year.

If any parent requires further advice or information, can you please email Shane Giese at sgiese@srprestonwest.catholic.edu.au.

Kind Regards,

Shane Giese.