Recommendations for Use of Mobile Devices

Great Southern Grammar is looking to the future and planning for continued improvement in IT integration. Parent feedback in this process is valued. Information, experiences and strategies suggested by GSG parents may assist other parents in monitoring and managing a 1:1 device in the home and family environment. Such devices may include laptops, iPads, iPods, MacBook or mobile phones. Here are some recommendations for managing a mobile device in the family.

Homework
- Diary notes of homework will indicate what is to be done.
- Know School policy on homework time for your child’s year group.
- Supervise homework or ensure it is done in a space where an adult can see the screen.
- Understand that electronic communication may be a necessary part of homework. Check with your child’s teacher.

Social communication
- Talk about opportunities for social networking.
- Become familiar with the operation of each form.
- Participate in the interactions.
- Discuss with your child the ramifications and risks associated with social media.
- Maintain communication about your child’s use of social networking.
- Facebook is legally only available to persons aged 13+.

Family time
- Set time limits on a daily or weekly basis about ‘screen time’ or ‘IT time’.
- For mobile devices, negotiate where children use the device.
- Focus on ‘one thing at a time’ not switching between activities.
- Families need time together. Power off sometimes – have a ‘no IT’ time. It could be half an hour each day or an evening once a week or a weekend once a month or term.
- Leave the device at school for a ‘device holiday’ overnight or over the weekend.
- Determine consequences for irresponsible behaviours involving IT.

IT savvy
- Learn new technology with your child.
- Figure out how to save work to other destinations i.e. the iCloud.
- Link the device to others in the house.
- Seek advice on how to set up your home system of internet access and availability.
- Use parent controls to manage download volumes, times and content.
- Explore internet filters and their benefits.
- Turn off the router/modem if necessary for short or longer time frames.
- Employ password protections on family devices that parents manage.
✓ Have a dedicated ‘power-up’ zone where devices are kept for charging and storage.
✓ Manage the finance of application downloads i.e. be in charge of the account details and passwords.
✓ Know your child’s device password.
✓ Talk to your child about being a good ‘digital citizen’, behaving responsibly in the ether.

**Gaming**

✓ Define a game.
✓ Remove games and distractive applications.
✓ Set limits on game time as part of an overall limit of use policy in your home.
✓ Play games with your child and engage in discussion about the games.
✓ Ensure there is always storage space on the device for schoolwork – games and music take up a lot of bytes.

**Safety**

✓ Physically protect the device with a case or cover.
✓ Insure the device.
✓ Secure the device in your home.
✓ Talk to your child about security as they transport the device to and from school.
✓ Find out how your child secures the device at school.