

## Case Study

# St Christopher's Primary School, Airport West



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In 2015, St Christopher's Primary School in Airport West embarked on a digital technologies journey that would see the beginning of new community partnerships, new learning and a little of the unknown. The school made a commitment to a one to one Chromebook program for all their year five and year six students that would take learning in the classroom to a new level. The program was supported by a team of people that comprised of the school leaders, a committed teaching staff, a Digital Technologies consultant, an onsite ICT technician, partnerships with the eSmart team from the Alannah and Madeline Foundation and a complete upgrade of the school's wireless network. In conjunction with this, the school undertook an overhaul of the entire technology acceptable use agreements. The agreements required both parents and students written consent in supporting the terms and their responsibilities whilst using digital technology. This also included the introduction of a Chromebook Policy which required written consent of both parents and students of years five and six. An educational platform called Hapara was rolled out and the GSuite, Google Admin Console and filters were also put into place to ensure that, whilst the children were online at school, they would be protected. An emphasis was placed on online safety throughout the school and most students could quote the rule, "STOP, BLOCK and TELL!"

It has been almost three years since the one to one Chromebook program began and every year the school's eSmart team assesses the effectiveness of this program and the school's use of digital tools. We believe we are in a good place but it has not come single handedly. Many factors have contributed to its success. In 2015, principal Adrian Glasby reviewed the school's behaviour management policy and an emphasis was placed on ensuring the school was, "calm, gentle and respectful". A mindfulness program was also introduced in the same year and now a specialist teacher has been employed to maintain the school's respectful and calm culture.

Today, being eSmart at St. Christopher's is not just about behaviours online but involves a holistic approach to the community's overall wellbeing. With this shift in the school's culture, ever so slowly, the community has started to view online behaviour to be no different to the physical and social behaviours that students express in the classroom or out in the school yard. Therefore, the rewards and consequences of both behaviours are much the same.

The school recognises digital technologies as an important part of the curriculum. eSafe practices are embedded into classroom teaching and digital tools are used to support all areas of learning. In particular this is evident in their structured, sequential and differentiated Teaching and Learning programs in English and Mathematics.

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The parent community is kept informed via the School Bag App and an experimental trial of Seesaw has begun. Staff value new learning. They take on opportunities to work with the school ICT leader to ensure that student learning is engaging and current. There are more digital tools in the school than there has ever been, however there is rarely causes for concern. The proactive and holistic approach to wellbeing has meant that the eSmart status of St. Christopher's has just naturally progressed with the shift in the culture of the community.

