

Dear Parents,

Our school has been making wide use of technology to impart quality education which will impact learning. As you are aware, the potential of Information technology as a valuable learning resource is immense. The internet is a way to stay connected, to stay abreast of happenings and explore information. Video resources, research articles, online collaborative tools and educational content are all freely available to supplement the course content and help equip our students with 21st century skills.

It has however come to light that the internet is being misused and games like Blue Whale are being accessed by students. It is imperative for us to take measures to safeguard our children and make them aware of the consequences of the misuse of internet.

The school has taken necessary measures. Our computer science program has a dedicated strand on the safety and ethics of internet usage. This strand addresses the safe ways to use the internet in addition to discussing issues such as plagiarism, ethics etc. Our teachers have been provided with guidance on how to support discussions on such matters too. We also have designated counsellors prepared to reach out to students whenever required.

In this aspect we would like to mention that it is also the responsibility of the parents in guiding and monitoring their wards with respect to the use of internet. Parents should monitor the apps being downloaded and used, the extent of use of social media and the purpose for the same. It is necessary for parents to stay connected and engage with their ward, their friends and encourage them to talk about their day-to-day activities. We advise you to be vigilant in noting any sudden deviation in your ward's routine, behaviour and sleep pattern.

It only takes a little bit of effort, a few tools and some basic information to be safe for browsing the Internet. We therefore request all parents to educate their wards on these issues, adopt safe browsing norms and in turn ensure the safety of their wards.

Here are a few guidelines that could be followed.

- Install and maintain up-to-date anti-virus software on your computer or device
- Ensure parental controls are set appropriately on your computer or devices.
- Keep your internet browser up-to-date
- Be alert to unusual computer activity or problems
- Install and maintain a firewall on your computer
- Use a modern browser with features such as a pop-up blocker
- Avoid storing sensitive material indefinitely on your computer
- Change your password often
- Beware of links sent via instant messaging and e-mail attachment

Tips to stay safe on social networking sites for students

- do not accept friend requests from unknown people
- use the strongest privacy setting when setting up profile to ensure that only desirable persons will be able to view their information
- share pictures and videos very carefully
- avoid illegal downloads

At Ekya, we have always been striving to make our students progressive and to empower them as learners. We want to prepare them to make the right choices, face the future with confidence and contribute towards making this world a better place.

Ekya Schools