CYBER SAFETY IN 2021

ENGAGING YOUR PARENT COMMUNITY IN CYBER SAFETY

A GUIDE FOR SCHOOLS

2020 has shown the importance for schools to create and nurture strong collaborative partnerships with families and whānau when it comes to cyber safety.

This guide offers six tips to help schools prepare for making powerful partnerships that will drive cyber safety success in 2021!

Linewize

01 CONNECT

When it comes to online safety & wellbeing, powerful partnerships with parents, families & whānau are key. Try to find time before the holidays to connect with your wider school community to surface any pressing concerns, questions or pain points. The insights you gather will help identify priorities and inform planning for next year.

INCREASING CYBER SAFETY RISKS IN 2020

86%
increase in image-based abuse online.

21%
increase in cyberbullying.

200%
increase in posts to known online child sexual abuse forums.

Reference:

We Protect Global Alliance, 2020. Increases During the month of March 2020.

02 IDENTIFY

Identify what your next steps are and who needs to be involved. Some questions you can ask are:

- What are your key priorities around wellbeing and online safety?
- How can your actions around online safety and wellbeing support your school's strategic focus?
- What trends are you as a school noticing and how does this align with what your wider community is saying?

03 PLAN

Sometimes it's easy to forget about online safety until an incident occurs. By then, often the damage has been done and schools, families & whānau are left to pick up the pieces. We need to be on the front foot and proactive.

Student use of digital spaces and devices is not confined to a few days in the year, but rather has become a vital part of the learning and teaching process. Weave your online safety & wellbeing plans and initiatives into your strategic plan - making it an integrated part of your approach to learning and teaching. Add an online safety parent information evening into your calendar early too, this will allow it to be a highlight of your 'back to school' orientation programme.

04 ACTIVATE

The first term of a new year is always hectic so encourage families to activate their family internet filtering accounts prior to the holidays. This will not only provide them with tools and support during the holiday period, but will also mean they can hit the ground running at the start of the new year.

If your school:

- Currently offers the parent sign-up option or ready-created parent accounts, look for an opportunity to re-share that information with your families and whānau.
- Is keen to activate your existing Family Zone Community offering and is not quite sure where to start, connect with us and we can work alongside you to get the ball rolling.
- Doesn't have the community option enabled and is keen to get the parent and whānau community on board, connect with the team and we can help you to get signed up.

05 SHARE

The holiday period, undoubtedly, means many young people will be receiving new or hand-me-down devices. While the opportunities available online are amazing, the more time young people spend online, the more chance they have of encountering possible risk and challenge.

Check out some of the tips and tricks our cyber safety experts suggest and share these with your parent and whānau community via newsletters or your social media channels. We also have a number of webinars and events to support parents, so take the opportunity to highlight these for your community.

INCREASING CYBER SAFETY RISKS IN 2020

53%

of teenagers believe that what they see online is a realistic depiction of real life.

122 mill

more children have come online. It is estimated that 1 in 3 internet users is a child.

Reference:

We Protect Global Alliance, 2020. Increases During the month of March 2020.

06 REVIEW

Term 4 is always a good time to review your school's existing policies and agreements. Update them to reflect any changes that have happened during the year - this will ensure everything is up to date and everyone is on the same page around expectations and responsibilities.

If you are deploying your Family Zone Insights or Premium packages to families, make sure that your school documentation reflects any changes.
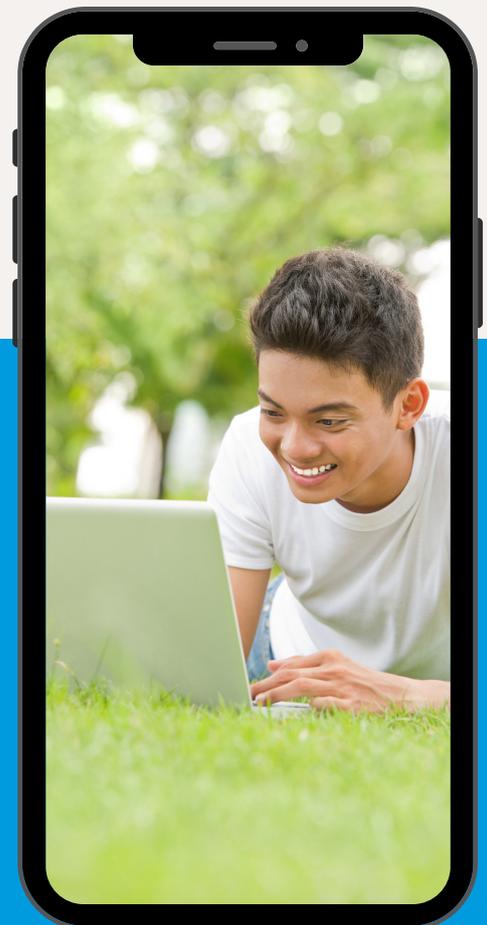
Got questions or need help?

If you would like to chat with the team about your Community Partnership offering or would like to explore adding Community to your existing package, please contact the team – we would love the opportunity to chat.

If you have any other questions or need support you can contact us via email at **help@linewize.io** or contact us here.

Acknowledgements

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Pauline has spent the last 20 years within the education sector, spending time both inside and outside the classroom.

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