5 Key Questions Every Principal Should Ask Tech Providers.

1. What data is collected and why?

Ensure vendors clearly explain what personal data (student, parent information) is collected and how it's used, in plain language.

2. Where is the data stored, and for how long?

Student data should be stored securely—preferably in NZ or Australia—and only retained for as long as necessary. What happens to your data when you close an account?

3. Who can access your data?

Confirm that data access is restricted and ask about any third-party services that access your private data.

4. How is student data protected?

Ask about encryption, account protections, and ongoing security measures that are followed by the vendor to protect your information.

5. Has the software been independently reviewed for privacy and security?

Ask for evidence that the software has been reviewed rather than relying on marketing claims or what is said on the website.

How Safer Technologies for Schools (ST4S) Can Help

ST4S is a trans-Tasman initiative supported by the New Zealand Ministry of Education that assesses digital products used in schools for privacy, security, data protection, and responsible data use. A product with an ST4S review has undergone a standardised, independent assessment—giving school leaders the confidence to make safe, informed choices.

Hail is proud to be the first communications and web provider to achieve ST4S certification. This recognition highlights our commitment to protecting student data and supporting safe technology use in schools.

Visit: *https://www.education.govt.nz/education-professionals/schools-year-0-13/digital-technology/choosing-safer-technologies-schools-and-kura*

Safer Technologies 4 Schools
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