



Case Study:

This is the story of one school's journey to create a comprehensive cybersafety ecosystem as a Linewize Partner School.



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Kurt Kennedy, Deputy Principal
Aquinas College



Located in Tauranga, Aquinas College is a state integrated Catholic co-educational combined intermediate and high school with a roll of 750 students. The college has been providing devices for student use and introducing the concept of BYOD over the last few years. As of 2018, Year 11 students were required to bring a device and students from other year levels encouraged to bring them if they had them.

The Challenge

Whilst Aquinas College had a safe school network, school leaders and the community felt that it was important to protect students from the inevitable risks of the internet, not only at school but at home and everywhere in between.

Deputy Principal Kurt Kennedy expands, “We wanted to ensure safe internet access when students are off the school network, at home, or on mobile data. Parents were also keen to have greater ability to manage how much time students spent on their devices and have some insight into what they were doing.”

“We had used Linewize (School Manager) for a number of years to provide content filtering for students, and the accompanying tools to permit or limit student access to websites had been well-utilized by teachers. This gave the students freedom to safely explore the internet, but also empowered teachers to be able to manage the potential for digital distraction. We wanted to provide a similar service for parents.”



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The outcome

It is early days for Aquinas College, but Kurt has been pleased with the initial response, “Feedback from parents has been very encouraging. They understand that it is not only the school’s responsibility to monitor what children are doing but the home too. The app is creating opportunities for discussion within families about device use.”

Kurt cites the example of a parent whose son approached her before downloading an app to argue his case for why it was appropriate, something which would never have happened before installing Linewize, “Having these conversations is part of 21st Century parenting and Linewize provides parents with a means to start those discussions about what is safe and what is healthy, and perhaps for the first time gives parents options to manage these important issues.”

Advice on joining the Partner School Program

Successfully ‘selling’ Linewize to the students is a critical part of the process. Kurt Kennedy, Deputy Principal at Aquinas College advises:

- Pitch the app to the parents and students at the same time to avoid students feeling that ‘This is being done to us’.
- Emphasize that the app aims to make students as responsible as possible, to support and encourage sensible decision making and initiate insightful discussion at school and at home.
- Take advantage of the extensive support offered by Linewize, “The support available is far wider than the product itself. Not only did Saunil Hagler, School Relationship Manager support us technically but he led the parent information sessions and offered lots of advice around digital safety and digital citizenship.”

Contact us

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About Linewize

Linewize create school communities that free our kids to get the best out of the digital world, while protecting them from harm. We empower school communities with the tools, expertise and support they need to ensure students are safe and prepared for their digital futures.