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Dear Mr McCoskrie

Thank you for your email of 3 October 2014 to the Minister of Education requesting information about screen time. The Minister has transferred your request to the Ministry of Education for a response. You asked for:

- *What guidelines has the Ministry of Education provided to schools regarding the amount of daily screen time during school time?*
- *What guidelines has the Ministry of Education provided to ECE (Early Childhood Education) regarding the amount of daily screen time during ECE time?*
- *What research has been done or received by the Ministry relating to appropriate amounts of daily screen time for young people?*

In your email of 10 October 2014 you clarified your request as follows:

1. *What guidance or advice has the Ministry given to schools on:*
  - a. *Homework and non-homework screen time outside of school time*
  - b. *Time on devices (computer, internet, 'educational' TV/DVDs) in school as part of the educational day/learning teaching process*
  - c. *The child's own devices (e.g. smartphone, handheld digital game) or school's devices – to be used during breaks, lunch, non-classroom periods, for their own personal use. This does not include ringing/texting their parents over an important matter.*
2. *What guidance and advice has the Ministry given to ECE centres on the above points?*
3. *What advice or guidance the Ministry has given regarding the use of devices as part of 'play' while the child is at ECE during the day?*

4. *What research has been done or received by the Ministry relating to appropriate amounts of daily screen time for young people?*

Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Your questions and the Ministry's responses are given below.

**Questions 1 and 2: What guidance or advice has the Ministry given to schools and ECE on:**

- a. **Homework and non-homework screen time outside of school time**
- b. **Time on devices (computer, internet, 'educational' TV/DVDs) in school as part of the educational day/learning teaching process**

It is up to individual schools to decide the extent to which they will use digital technology to support teaching and learning. The Ministry has provided general guidance around the safe use of digital technology though not in relation to screen time, this can be found on the links below.

<http://elearning.tki.org.nz/Beyond-the-classroom/Engaging-with-the-community>

<http://elearning.tki.org.nz/Technologies>

Parents are best placed to determine how much screen time their children have access to for non-homework periods. The Ministry provides parents with information on how to support their child's learning at school and home. This information can be found on the parent portal on the [www.education.govt.nz](http://www.education.govt.nz) site. It suggests that children's screen time is balanced with other activities in order to ensure their health, safety and happiness. Parents are encouraged to talk to their school about getting the right balance for their child. This information can be accessed through the link below.

<http://parents.education.govt.nz/your-teen/learning-at-school/learning-using-digital-technologies/>

**Questions 1 and 2: *What guidance or advice has the Ministry given to schools and ECE on:***

- c. **The child's own devices (e.g. smartphone, handheld digital game) or school's devices – to be used during breaks, lunch, non-classroom periods, for their own personal use. This does not include ringing/texting their parents over an important matter.**

The Ministry has not provided specific guidance or advice to schools and ECE services about the use of the child's own devices or school devices for their own personal use. It is up to individual schools to determine the extent to which children are able to use their devices outside of class time.

An important benefit of personal digital devices is that they enable children and young people to continue their learning outside of school. As schools increasingly adopt digital devices to support learning, many schools are working with parents on how students can get the best

from their devices. This can include discussion about appropriate boundaries around screen time.

**Question 3: What advice or guidance the Ministry has given regarding the use of devices as part of 'play' while the child is at ECE during the day?**

The Ministry provides ECE services with information relating to the safe use of digital technology but has not provided specific guidance on the use of devices as part of 'play' while the child is at ECE services during the day. The Netsafe Kit resources for ECE services are accessible on our website and can be found on the links below:

<http://www.educate.ece.govt.nz/learning/exploringPractice/ICT.aspx>.

<http://www.educate.ece.govt.nz/Programmes/Cybersafety.aspx>

<http://www.lead.ece.govt.nz/ManagementInformation/ICTInfrastructure.aspx>

<http://www.education.govt.nz/early-childhood/teaching-and-learning/learning-tools-and-resources/play-ideas/ict/>

**Question 4: What research has been done or received by the Ministry relating to appropriate amounts of daily screen time for young people?**

The Ministry has not undertaken specific research on appropriate amounts of daily screen time for young people.

In relation to the impact of digital technologies for learning, there is considerable evidence in New Zealand and internationally that digital technologies can enhance learning where there is strong school leadership and the technologies are integrated with effective teaching and learning practices.

There are two reports that have provided advice and recommendation to the Government on 21st century learning and the use of digital technologies: the report of the Education and Science Select Committee released in December 2014, and the report of the 21st Century Learning Reference Group. Both reports can be accessed through the links below.

[http://www.parliament.nz/resource/en-nz/50DBSCH\\_SCR5695\\_1/b6ed634f8930f5797df8b91ca9f4a519e0e6608d](http://www.parliament.nz/resource/en-nz/50DBSCH_SCR5695_1/b6ed634f8930f5797df8b91ca9f4a519e0e6608d)

<http://www.minedu.govt.nz/~media/MinEdu/Files/TheMinistry/EducationInitiatives/FutureFocusedLearning30May2014PDF.pdf>

The below link provides access to a range of up-to-date research that supports the development of e-learning capability.

<http://elearning.tki.org.nz/Research-and-readings>

The OECD has written a number of reports on the use of digital technology in learning. If you have not already seen them, I have attached links to two recent OECD publications on the topic below.

<http://www.oecd.org/site/educeri21st/40554230.pdf>

[http://www.keepeek.com/Digital-Asset-Management/oecd/education/are-the-new-millennium-learners-making-the-grade\\_9789264076044-en#page1](http://www.keepeek.com/Digital-Asset-Management/oecd/education/are-the-new-millennium-learners-making-the-grade_9789264076044-en#page1)

Decisions around the use of digital technology by children and young people at school and at home is made by school leaders, teachers, parents and whānau. The Ministry will continue to develop guidance and advice for schools regarding the use of digital technology in teaching and at school and will continue to encourage schools to engage with parents, family and whānau on best practice surrounding the use of technology in the home.

I trust that you find this information helpful.

Thank you again for your email requesting information under the Official Information Act.

Yours sincerely



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Student Achievement