



ICT at Oropi School



What is ICT?

ICT or Information and Communication Technology in school is the use of technology and resources which allow children to research, experience and access new information. Learning is enhanced by using ICT as a tool for organisation, presentation, communication, research and problem-solving. ICT's include computers, laptops, iPads, tablets, Apps, data projectors, the Internet, Web 2.0 and 3.0 tools, digital/video cameras, voice recorders, CD players, iPods, mobile phones and many more. ICT allows children to work collaboratively and cooperatively, developing team building skills. It motivates and engages children in their learning, making learning more meaningful. Children's critical thinking and problem-solving skills are developed and improved, preparing them as lifelong learners. ICT provides opportunities to present learning in creative, innovative and engaging ways which make learning fun.



Why ICT?

In an ever-changing world, it is important that education moves with the times.

The use of ICT is more prevalent than ever and its uses are expanding continually. ICT is enhancing and altering human activity, enabling us to live, work and think in new ways. Students must be prepared to understand, use and apply ICT in effective, efficient and ethical ways.

It is our job, as educators, to ensure children feel confident and safe using technology. We use ICT to take learning beyond the classroom, connect them with the world and prepare children for global citizenship. ICT inspires children to further their learning and enables them to expand their knowledge and skills. It provides children with increased opportunities to discover and explore new learning.



“There is a new, emerging, different form of life out there, that the Digital Natives are creating for themselves. If you are a parent or an educator, the one thing you can be sure of is that you ignore it at your peril” Prensky (2004)

How does ICT operate at Oropi School?

At Oropi, ICT is not taught as a stand-alone subject; it is infused and integrated within other learning areas to make learning more powerful. New ICT skills are learned when necessary, through hands on experience, allowing more meaningful learning to take place. We are very aware of the need to balance the use of ICT in the classroom with other learning experiences and opportunities in order to uphold the adventurous, nature-loving spirit of the Oropi Learner. ICT is used in purposeful and relevant contexts, with a specific learning goal in mind. It is not used as a babysitter, time-filler or game station. Educational 'games' may be accessed as part of the learning programme to consolidate a particular learning intention e.g. basic facts to ten.



ICT in the Junior School

ICT in the Junior School mainly involves the use of tablets, computers and cameras. Cameras are used frequently to document children's learning so they can make movies and stories and improve oral skills by reflecting on and talking about their learning. Specific apps and programs are used on the computers and iPads to further the understanding of a particular learning intention. Children are not allowed on the computers before school or during break times, unless a specific task has been set by the teacher. In the Junior School, we believe it is very important to balance the use of ICT with other teaching and learning approaches, as we are aware of the effects technologies can have on children's brains and eyesight. We endeavour to keep up with research on the application and impact of ICT in order to ensure we are providing the best education for the children.



ICT in the Middle/Senior School

In the Middle/Senior School, we are aware of the impact technologies play in the future lives of our children. It is most important to ensure children feel safe and confident when using ICT. At Oropi, we teach children to become digitally literate not just in using ICT, but in keeping themselves safe and troubleshooting when problems occur. Children learn how and when to choose appropriate technologies to fit the purpose. ICT is used as a tool to support learning. Through experience, children learn how to use and apply a variety of ICT's to complement the learning goal they are working on. We are very conscious of the ever-changing nature of technology and aspire to keep up-to-date with the latest developments to make sure we are delivering the best education for the children.

