

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

3/4/19

Dear Parents & Guardians,

There has been misleading information regarding Wi-Fi in NSW public schools distributed to both our parents and the Byron Bay community. The following is an assessment of Wi-Fi provision in New South Wales public schools, which is applicable to our site.

The Department of Education provides the following information:

- The Department has consulted with the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA) regarding Wi-Fi in schools.
- In term 3 2016, the department agreed to participate in a study undertaken by ARPANSA relating to Wi-Fi in schools. Under the recent study, 23 schools in Victoria and NSW (11 NSW public schools) were visited and surveyed about the effects of Wi-Fi on students. ARPANSA has provided a summary of findings on their website, including the following statement:
 - *“All the measurements of Wi-Fi and other sources were much lower than the limits of the Australian Standard. In the classroom the typical RF EME from Wi-Fi was 0.0002% of the general public exposure limit. These figures are out of the 100% allowable for general public exposure. In the schoolyard the typical RF EME from Wi-Fi was 0.000001% of the limit. In the classroom Wi-Fi was similar to radio broadcasts whereas in the schoolyard Wi-Fi was lower than all other sources.*
- This study showed that the typical RF exposure of children from Wi-Fi at school is very low and comparable or lower to other sources in the environment such as radio and TV broadcasts and mobile phone base stations
- The department accepts ARPANSA’s position that “there is no established scientific evidence that the low exposure to RF EME from Wi-Fi adversely affects the health of children or the general population.”
- If you would like to read more from ARPANSA’s Wi-Fi in Schools Measurement Study, the published scientific journal can be found here:
<https://academic.oup.com/rpd/article/doi/10.1093/rpd/ncw370/2883282/Exposure-to-Radiofrequency-Electromagnetic-Fields?keytype=ref&ijkey=bb1522JD7RsTs5P>

Additional information can be found at:

- <http://rpd.oxfordjournals.org/content/early/2017/01/10/rpd.ncw370.full?keytype=ref&ijkey=bb1522JD7RsTs5P>

The studies found that typical Wi-Fi exposure levels in locations occupied by children were much lower than the limits of the Australian Standard, for example the typical exposure from Wi-Fi inside the classroom was 0.0002% of the Standard (out of 100% allowable).

The department also takes advice on health issues from the Ministry of Health and they have not identified Wi-Fi as a source of danger to children's health. With regards to Wi-Fi, the school is not in breach of any health and safety standards. We have been using Wi-Fi for the last 7 years. The use of Wi-Fi enables us to deliver engaging, futures focused teaching and learning using digital devices anywhere around the school.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

If you have any concerns, please come and talk to us.

Thank you to the large majority of our parents who are respectful digital citizens.

Kind Regards,

[Redacted]

Principal

[Redacted] Public School