

ADVISORY TO PARENTS IN VIEW OF ENHANCED USAGE OF SCREEN TIME BY STUDENTS

1. COVID-19 pandemic has been rapidly spreading across the country, however to curb the further spread, Govt has instructed all the educational institutions to suspend the on campus learning. To ensure continuity of teaching learning process, the Schools have been advised to use the online platform to conduct classes to facilitate all the students.

2. As the e-learning has resulted in an increase in online screen time and exposure of students to various free sites in open domain, there is a need to advice and caution the parents to be vigilant for ensuring cyber safety of their wards. To safeguard children from accessing inappropriate content, to avoid cyber bullying and online predators, the parents' need to support and monitor their wards as a proctor while they use virtual platform.

3. Following broad guidelines are advised to be adhered to by the students and parents while accessing online classes/ study material:-
 - (a) Devices should be set preferably in the living room and should be accessed in the presence of an adult.
 - (b) There should be two-factor authentication for devices and its home screen should be locked with pin.
 - (c) Teach kids how to browse and the content that needs to be looked for in order to maintain appropriate online behavior.
 - (d) It is also advised to parents to filter contents and avoid chance of the child encountering inappropriate contents by mistake.
 - (e) Guardians to add parental control software to family devises.
 - (f) Parents should take their child seriously if he/she reports an uncomfortable online exchange.
 - (g) Children should also be taught that the internet provides anonymity. Therefore, someone they come in contact with may not be who they think they are.
 - (h) Parents are to keep check on credit card and Mobile usage (Call/Data) and look for unfamiliar account charges.