Google Apps for Education

In July 2013, the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria Ltd (CECV) Integrated Catholic Online Network (ICON) Working Group accepted an expert group’s recommendation that Google Apps for Education (GAFE) be a provisioned option for Victorian Catholic schools. Recognising the benefits of using Google Apps for Education many Victorian Catholic schools are setting up school-based GAFE accounts prior to the provision of CECV ICON Google Apps for Education.

We at St Joseph’s have decided to become a Google Apps for Education (GAFE) school to enhance the way we use technology and share information within and beyond our school community.

Essentially, GAFE is a cloud based learning platform allowing teachers and students to create a range of documents online, email and share calendars that can be accessed at home and school on any device. Importantly, all data created or stored within Google Apps for Education is accessible from any device or location in the world via the internet.

GAFE allows us to collaborate and learn more effectively through the use of technology, and offer a range of new learning opportunities for teachers and students.

Further information about GAFE can be found here http://www.google.com/enterprise/apps/education/benefits.html

Facts about Google Apps for Education

● Google Apps for Education provides a suite of products which will assist schools to communicate, collaborate, and create and share content.

● GAFE is used by many of the world’s leading educational institutions, including universities, secondary and primary schools. Many public, Catholic and Independent schools within Australia are using GAFE right now.

● GAFE is completely free for schools and does not contain advertising anywhere within it.

● Many of GAFE apps such as Google Docs and Gmail are familiar to many students and parents.

How will Google Apps for Education enhance my child’s learning opportunities?

● GAFE allows up to 100 teachers and students the ability to collaborate on documents simultaneously. This type of collaboration has been impossible in the past.

● GAFE works on any device. This allows our students to continue learning beyond the classroom and the ability to access their content at any time.

● Students and teachers can work in teams, sharing calendars, documents and collaborating ideas to learn more effectively.
What should I be aware of?

- GAFE allows students to communicate and store information in both public and private spaces online.
- Unlike many other web services GAFE acknowledges its users as the owners of content they produce and store.
- GAFE does not share any data or user information with any other party unlike other Google products such as Gmail.
- All data, documents and activity of students’ accounts can be observed and monitored by teachers. This is through using Hapara. Hapara assists teachers in managing, assessing and viewing students work and actions.
- We will be using Google Apps for Education for creating and storing documents. The data may be transferred, stored or processed outside Australia.
- Your child will be provided a Google account as part of the GAFE package. This differs from Gmail as student email is still in the St Joseph’s domain of @sjsorrento.catholic.edu.au

We will be working with students to educate them around using GAFE in a productive and responsible manner. We also feel it necessary for parents to be aware of new technologies such as GAFE and encourage you to be proactive discussing and exploring it with your child.

Your agreement is required for your child to access their Google Account. Please keep the information at home in a safe place and return the cut slip to a classroom teacher.

Should you have any queries please speak to or email either Mrs Rowley (prowley@sjsorrento.catholic.edu.au) or Miss Connolly (sconnolly@sjsorrento.catholic.edu.au)

Kind Regards

Patrika Rowley  
Acting Principal

Sarah Connolly  
ICT Coordinator

Please cut…………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

**Google Apps for Education** (please return this slip to school by Thursday 10th September)

I, ____________________________________________, agree for my child

____________________________________________ to use Google Apps at St Joseph’s School, Sorrento.

Signed: ___________________________________  Date: ______________________________