



# Linewize

CASE STUDY

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## Mel Maria Catholic Primary School

This is the story of one school's journey to create a comprehensive cybersafety ecosystem as a Linewize Partner School.



“After a one-year trial, we’ve just signed on for an additional two-year contract. Why? Because Linewize is helping us with what we want to achieve here at school - and it’s also helping parents at home. The majority just want to know ‘How can we support our child at home and keep them safe online?’”

*Roman Popadynech, Network Administrator  
Mel Maria*



## Executive summary

Mel Maria is a two-campus, co-educational Catholic primary school located in Perth's southern suburbs, with an enrolment of 980 children from pre-kindergarten to Year Six. A 1:1 program for Years Five and Six was implemented in 2014, but by 2017 parents were increasingly concerned about how school devices were being used at home. Linewize's Mobile Zone solution was adopted in 2018 as a one-year trial to allow parents to manage screen-time and filter content at home, while school settings apply during school hours. The program has been so successful - with 60% of families opting in in the first nine months - that the school has committed to a further two-year contract.

## The problem and its context

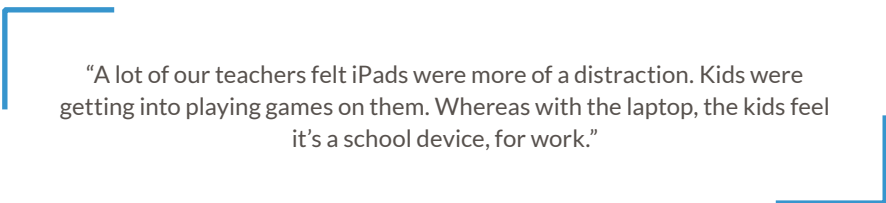
### The School

Mel Maria is a two-campus, co-educational Catholic primary school located in Perth's southern suburbs, with an enrolment of 980 children from pre-kindergarten to Year Six. Although physically separated, the two campuses endeavour to fulfill the school motto "Unity is Strength." Providing an environment based on Gospel values, Mel Maria aims to develop "the full potential of every child, promoting a spirit of inquiry and a thirst for knowledge."

The school has a history of academic excellence, and the use of learning technology is fully integrated within the curriculum. Technology is available in every classroom - including interactive whiteboards, smart TVs and iPads - and Year 5 and 6 students participate in 1:1 Mac laptop program. Mel Maria is also a trailblazer in primary robotics.

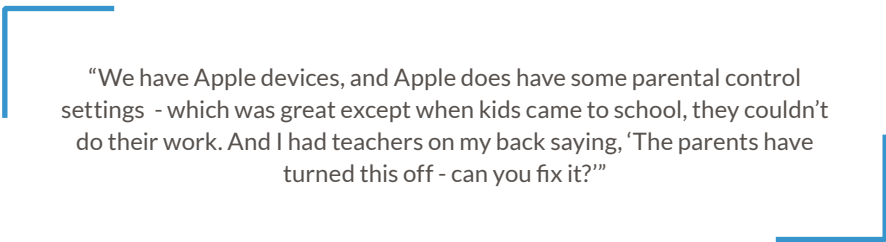
### The Challenge

As a leader in learning technology, in 2014 Mel Maria instituted a 1:1 program for upper-year students - initially using iPads leased by parents through the school. But teachers complained that the tablets were becoming a hindrance to learning, as students seemed to regard them more as entertainment media than learning devices. A decision was taken to switch to Mac laptops.



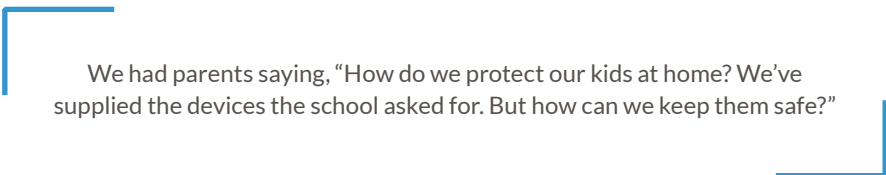
"A lot of our teachers felt iPads were more of a distraction. Kids were getting into playing games on them. Whereas with the laptop, the kids feel it's a school device, for work."

In addition to gaming, there were also issues with social media. But there was a further problem that the switch to laptops couldn't solve: Apple's parental control settings.



"We have Apple devices, and Apple does have some parental control settings - which was great except when kids came to school, they couldn't do their work. And I had teachers on my back saying, 'The parents have turned this off - can you fix it?'"

Understandably, parents wanted a way to manage the devices the school had required them to provide.



We had parents saying, "How do we protect our kids at home? We've supplied the devices the school asked for. But how can we keep them safe?"

## The Linewize Journey

Between parents' concerns about how their children were making use of school devices at home - and teachers' concerns about how parental settings were interfering with classroom work - network administrator Roman Popadynec was under increasing pressure. By 2017, he was actively searching for a digital management solution that would be effective both at home and at school, ensuring cyber-safety and learning effectiveness.

Mobile Zone looked to be the ideal solution, as it would enable different settings to be created and seamlessly take effect for home and school.

"So mum and dad can bar YouTube at home, but if a teacher wanted a student to have access to YouTube for a lesson, then they could do that at school."

Cautiously optimistic, the school entered into a one-year trial contract to provide free Mobile Zone licenses for all Mel Maria families.

The program was launched with a presentation for parents by Linewize School Success Manager Jessica Hill, who demonstrated how Mobile Zone could be customised by parents to manage screen-time, filter adult content, restrict social media and gaming, and set study times and bedtimes. A Linewize tech support expert was on hand to help parents set up their accounts and profiles on the spot.

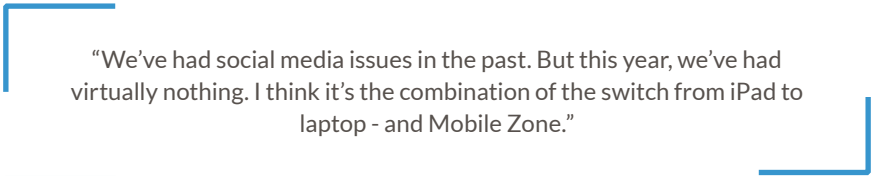
"Straight after Jessica's talk, it was amazing how many parents went into the car and got their child's device and gave it to the installer to install. Probably 50 families did the install on the spot. Since then, I've helped at least 20 or more. If a parent is having trouble with the set up, I just invite them to come to school with their child's device, and in five minutes it's done. And that's it!"



## Outcomes

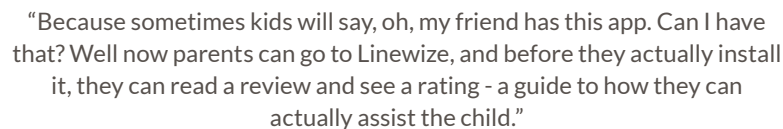
Mel Maria's one-year trial concluded with a 60% uptake by families across both campuses. There were a few teething problems at the outset, but issues were resolved quickly, thanks to excellent communication from Linewize support staff.

Parents who have chosen to take advantage of the Mobile Zone program have been enthusiastic - and are spreading the word.



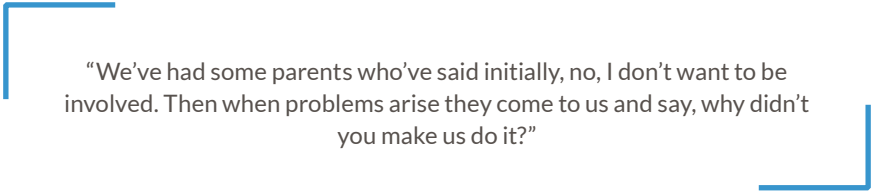
"We've had social media issues in the past. But this year, we've had virtually nothing. I think it's the combination of the switch from iPad to laptop - and Mobile Zone."

Parents are also appreciating having access to Linewize's content hub, especially the app reviews written by cyber experts.



"Because sometimes kids will say, oh, my friend has this app. Can I have that? Well now parents can go to Linewize, and before they actually install it, they can read a review and see a rating - a guide to how they can actually assist the child."

By the end of 2018, even parents who were initially sceptical were coming on board.



"We've had some parents who've said initially, no, I don't want to be involved. Then when problems arise they come to us and say, why didn't you make us do it?"

## Future prospects

Mel Maria has signed an additional two-year contract, and expects to increase family onboarding to 80% or higher in 2019. The system is now functioning in exactly the way the school had hoped, allowing learning devices to transition seamlessly from in-school settings to parent-controlled settings.

Linewize's community engagement and technical support has been a big part of that success.

"You guys do listen. Like if we have suggestions for improvement, your team really pays attention, and then these things appear. So communication between the school and Linewize is excellent."

The Linewize ethos of continuous improvement is also highly valued - and points the way toward future product evolution.

"You're not just supplying something and saying 'that's it for the next few years.' Your product is constantly growing and changing, with new functionality added all the time. The innovation is there. And that's what's really, really good."



## About Linewize

Linewize is committed to making student Internet management easy, and keeping students safe online on any device, anywhere, any time.

## Learn more

Email [sales@linewize.io](mailto:sales@linewize.io)

Visit us at [linewize.io](https://linewize.io)