



## Gooseberry Alert 30

### Trendy Tech – How can we respond positively to ‘tech’ peer pressure?

Please share your Gooseberry Alert content with students, staff and parents.



All that we ask in return and in the spirit of modelling positive digital citizenship: when sharing our content, please acknowledge ‘Gooseberry Planet Limited’ as the source of your advice. Thank you.

#### Gooseberry Student ‘Dilemma’ of the week

People can feel pressured to ‘fit in’ with their friends.  
This can include the pressure to have the latest technology.

Your friends are being unkind to a classmate because they do not have the latest smartphone. You have the same one and are quite happy with it but feel embarrassed to use it because of what your friends might say. How do you respond?

Explore the problem to help you reach a decision:

- How might your classmate be feeling?
- Explain why some people are unkind to others?
- Does owning the latest technology make us better people?
- Why is it important to some people, to have the latest technology?
- What is most important: people or objects? Explain your thoughts.
- How might you help your classmate in this situation?
- What might make it difficult to help them?



**Key Messages:** Remember, some people may not want, need or be able to own the latest technology or fashion item. That does not make them any better or worse. If you are lucky enough to have latest technology, that’s great, but avoid putting pressure on others to have the same. This can make others feel upset and embarrassed. It may cause extra pressure for their parents too.

Please share with students.

#### ? Gooseberry Teacher ‘Thoughts’ of the week



Tech-pressure exists and trying to keep up can be a problem for children, parents and schools. The ownership of technology can bring status, but it can also bring the pressure to provide it. **It is important for children and adults to learn that ownership of material goods does not validate us as human beings.** As well as learning practical digital skills, consider how your school delivers the skills needed to help build resilience amongst the children and their parents, including **how they respond to and manage peer-pressure.**

- How do your students view and use their technology?
- Do your students’ parents feel pressured to provide the latest gadgets?
- How can your school help to manage student and parent expectations?
- How do you encourage your students to value positive relationships over material possessions?

**Key Messages:** Helping children recognise and understand peer-pressure can help them to respond more robustly in challenging situations. Building self-confidence is key to resisting peer-pressure. Encourage students to be aware of the expectations they might place upon their parents when asking for the latest tech. Remember, parents can feel peer-pressure too.

Please share with staff.



## Gooseberry Parent 'Support' of the week

Choosing your child's first digital device can be stressful enough without having to worry if the tech is 'trendy' enough. **It is not unusual for children to want their technology to be the same as (or better than) their friends;** but do parents then feel pressured to provide it?

**If you have ever felt pressured to provide your child with the latest technology, you are not alone.** Parental peer-pressure and meeting a child's expectations can be enough to test your patience and family finances to the limit.

**What should you do when your child wants, 'needs' or demands an upgrade to their tech?**

**Ideas for managing your child's expectations regarding technology:**



- **Explore:** Ask your child to talk to you about the technology they desire, to get a clearer idea of why they want or 'need' it. **Technology is a privilege, not a right.**
- **Explain:** **Being honest with your child** and **managing their expectations** can help them to understand why it might not be financially possible for them to have the latest technology.
- **Age:** **Consider how appropriate it is for your child to have certain kinds of technology.** Find ways for them to access and enjoy using technology without owning their own.
- **Confidence:** **Be confident and assured in your decision making** and where appropriate explain your reasons to your child. The decision not to allow your child to have their own device or the latest technology **is likely to be made with safety or finances in mind.** Providing the latest technology could encourage your child to focus their attention on activities that you are not comfortable with.
- **Resilience:** Remind your child **that having (or not having) the latest gadget does not make a person any better or worse than another.** There is no shame in not having the latest device. **Nurture self-confidence** to help your child manage difficult situations and be resilient to other people's opinions about their possessions.
- **Be realistic:** It is important that your **child is realistic about what you can afford to buy.** Expecting the latest upgrade may not be possible and may place unfair demands upon you.
- **Finance:** Help **teach your child about the value of items, responsibility and saving.** Encourage your child to make an appropriate financial or chore-based contribution towards their tech.

**In the news... In the news... In the news... In the news... In the news...**

### **App Update: Facebook - Have you updated your privacy yet?**

Facebook has recently issued a notice prompting users to review and update their 'Privacy and Security' settings. Remember, this should be done regularly for every App and on every device.

Facebook have specifically asked users to control how in-App facial recognition software is used. This software is used to personalise your online experience. The **facial recognition software system recognises when you appear in videos or photographs,** by comparing content with your account profile picture.

Manage this feature in the '**Settings**' area of the App. By **tapping 'Face Recognition'** you will be able to manage (by **tapping 'Yes' or 'No'**) the App's ability to recognise you in photos and videos.

Although it may be helpful for some, the **safest option is to decline 'Facial Recognition'**. Also, **consider using an avatar for your profile picture** to help protect your visual identity.

Contact us at:  
[www.gooseberryplanet.com](http://www.gooseberryplanet.com)  
Email us:  
[help@gooseberryplanet.com](mailto:help@gooseberryplanet.com)

**Want to know more? Visit us at [www.gooseberryplanet.com](http://www.gooseberryplanet.com)**