

## Tips to help kids be Cyber Safe

**There are lots of different things you can do online. While most of the time it's all great fun, sometimes things don't go as well as you hoped and you don't know why or what to do about it.**

1. Never give out personal information such as their name, home address, school name or telephone number in chat rooms or on bulletin boards.
2. Get to know the services your child uses. If you don't know how to log on, get your child to show you. Monitor your child's online interactions.
3. Never send or provide a picture of themselves to someone they chat or communicate with
4. Remember that people online might not be who they say they are. Someone who says that "she" is a "12 year old girl" could really be an older man
5. Children should tell their parents immediately if they read anything that makes them feel uncomfortable
6. Never allow a child to arrange a face-to-face meeting with another computer user without parental permission.
7. Set reasonable rules and guidelines for computer use by your children. Discuss these rules and

post them near the computer as a reminder. Check regularly to see that children are following these rules, especially when it comes to the amount of time your children spend on the computer.

8. Consider keeping the computer in a family room rather than the child's bedroom. Get to know their "online friends" just as you get to know all of their other friends.
9. **Stand up and speak out!** If you see or know about cyberbullying happening to someone you know support them and report the bullying. **No-one has the right to bully another person.** At its most serious, cyberbullying is illegal and can be investigated by the police.

**If you have any questions regarding your child's internet use or safety concerns please discuss with your child's teacher or visit the government cybersafety website**  
<http://www.cybersmart.gov.au/>

# cyber(smart:)



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kids safe**



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# Net Alert!



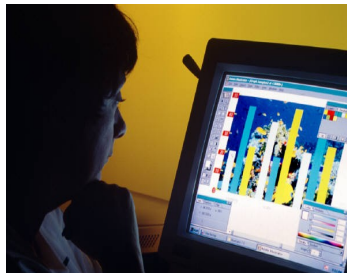
**An Information Guide for  
Parents and students**

# ARE YOUR KIDS CYBER SAFE?

Have you noticed how children today are very good at using computers and in particular accessing and using the internet? In fact most seven to 14 year olds can probably teach their parents (and teachers) a thing or two about what you can do and find on the internet, but many of them are unaware of the dangers that they are exposing themselves to.

Internet use has potential risks and dangers for students. Students can be harassed online, have their privacy threatened and even be exposed to physical danger. Online bullying and gossip on the web can have broad and devastating consequences.

By getting to know the online services your child is using, and by monitoring how they are using these services you can help reduce the potential risks of your child being online.



## Blogs and Social Networking Sites

Blogs, social networking sites and chat rooms are all places where people can meet, communicate, and interact online. In the last few years these sites have exploded in popularity in particular with teens and pre-teens.

Most communication on these sites is legal and can be positive. However, many children and teens are not aware they are putting themselves in danger by giving out too much personal information and communicating with people they've only met online.

### Cyber Bullying

Bullying and harassment is now an issue that is not restricted to forms such as verbal or physical harassment. Cyber bullying through the Internet means that bullying can take on different un-traditional forms through emails, chat rooms, discussion groups, instant messaging, and web pages.

Such bullying can include teasing; being made fun of, spreading rumours and lies, sending unwanted messages and emails, as well as defamation.

### Protecting your identity

It is important for children to consider privacy issues, especially when they are creating websites and publishing online documents. In some cases something as innocent as including photographs of themselves and other students can be used in a wrongful manner by those who have access to the page.

**\* Tip:** Avoid posting information that may allow a stranger to locate you. That includes your last name, the name of your school, sports teams, the town you live in, and where you hang out.

By working together, schools and parents can teach children ways to protect their safety and participate responsibly in the online world

This brochure has been developed by your child's school to help you keep your children 'cyber safe'. Please contact the school for further information.

