Cybersafety
Links for families

Information and resources available to support safe online behaviour

The online world

The online world is powerful and engaging for young people and adults alike, offering a wealth of opportunity.

Parents and carers have an important role to play in helping their children manage online risks so their experiences are safe and positive.

Schools provide a secure online educational environment, with teacher guidance and supervision to support students to safely negotiate communication technologies.

This cybersafety brochure provides you with a quick guide to information and resources available to support safe online behaviour.

Common technology

Communication technologies like mobile phones, email, internet instant messaging programs such as MSN messenger, blogs and social networking community websites like Facebook play an important part in many children's social lives.

It is essential that you stay informed of these technologies and aware of how your children are using them:

- **Personal web sites**: Sites that anyone can make/design to post material, including writings, drawings and they may allow users to post comments on them.
- **Blogs (weblogs)**: Interactive personal online diaries or journals.
- **Email**: Communication sent to individual(s) or a discussion list.
- **Discussion groups or bulletin boards**: Group communications around a topic.
- **Chat**: Real time group communication programs or websites, with ability to establish private chats as well.
- **Instant Messaging (IM)**: Instant, text based 'chat' programs through which users on a private contact or "buddy list" can communicate.
- **SMS text/digital image messaging**: Messages or images sent via mobile-phones.
- **Social networking communities**: Web sites like Facebook that combine the features of profiles, personal web sites, blogs, discussion groups/ boards, chat, gaming, and messaging.

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Where can parents get more information?

Who's chatting to your kids?

This Queensland Police Service resource contains practical information about internet safety, including the technology being used by children and how you can reduce the risk of your child becoming a victim.

For more information, visit: **www.police.qld.gov.au/ programs/personalSafety/childProtection/**

Cybersmart

The Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) provide comprehensive cybersafety initiatives and education programs as part of the Australian Government's cybersafety policy.

The ACMA site offers a parent section of information, tips and advice to help you and your family make the most of being online.

ACMA also offers free, general internet safety awareness presentations for parents, teachers and students. These presentations are easy to understand, thorough, non-technical and informative and provide valuable tips to help children stay safe online.

For more information, visit: **www.cybersmart.gov.au**

Let's fight it together

Let's Fight It Together is a comprehensive teaching resource including a seven minute film and a user guide with lesson plans for teachers, and tips for parents and carers to help them better understand the issues surrounding cyber bullying.

For more information, visit: **www.cybersmart.gov.au/ LFIT.aspx**

ThinkUKnow Australia

ThinkUKnow Australia has been developed by the Australian Federal Police (AFP) and Microsoft Australia. It is an internet safety program delivering interactive training to parents, carers and teachers through primary and secondary schools across Australia using a network of accredited trainers.

For more information, visit: **www.thinkuknow.org.au/ site/index.asp**
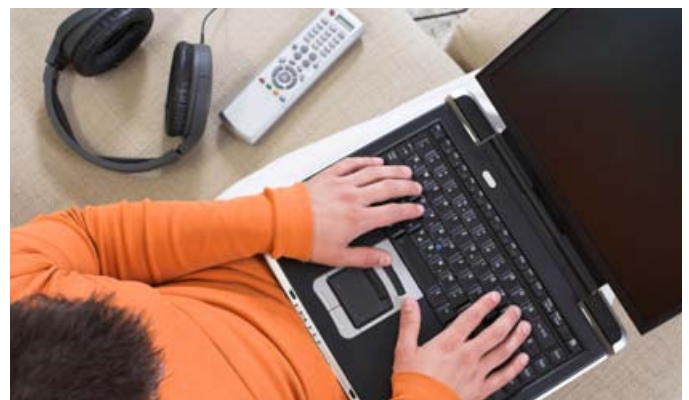
NetAlert

The NetAlert website, managed by the Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy, provides information about internet content filters for personal computers, how to lodge complaints about internet content and provides advice to parents about how to protect children when they are online.

For more information, visit: **www.netalert.gov.au/home.html**

Act Smart Be Safe

Act Smart – Be Safe is an initiative of the Department of Education and Training. This website provides resources and information to keep young people safe. The website provides tips for parents and resources for teachers and school leaders.

For more information, visit: **www.education.qld.gov.au/ actsmartbesafe**

A collaborative message

Please contact your local school if you have any further questions regarding cybersafety for your children at school, at home or in the community.

The Queensland Government will continue to address the issues of bullying, cyber bullying and violence in schools through the *Queensland Schools Alliance Against Violence*. For more information, visit www.education.qld.gov.au