

# A whole-school approach to online safety education

Comprehensive online safety education is underpinned by effective whole-school, strengths-based approaches for promoting student wellbeing.

The health, safety and wellbeing of all students is a shared responsibility, and a supportive environment is enriched through partnership with families.

This involves student, staff, and parent education to support knowledge, skills and understanding.

Online safety education allows students to navigate online environments and develop student agency to transfer the knowledge and skills gained in K-10 PDHPE, 7-12 Technologies and wellbeing time.

In [K-10 PDHPE](#), content and skills related to online safety are included in a developmentally appropriate way from K-10.

Driving the PDHPE curriculum are skills linked directly to social and emotional learning including self-management, self-awareness, responsible decision-making, respectful relationship skills and social awareness.

These skills drive teaching, learning and assessment. Skills related to eSafety education include problem-solving, help-seeking, empathy, resilience, respect, communication, advocacy, and leadership.

To support online safety education in schools, it is important that educators access the best available research and information about online safety via the [eSafety Commissioner](#).

Building a supportive school environment with clear online safety policies and procedures that include student voice will support a whole-school proactive approach.

Reviewing approaches regularly to identify strengths and opportunities and updating to ensure relevance to online safety issues, risks, and harms encourages more proactive online safety education.

## eSafety's Toolkit for Schools

[eSafety's Toolkit for Schools](#) was designed in consultation with education sectors and includes the following four Elements:

**Prepare** - online safety self-assessment tool, risk assessment tool, guidelines for social media use and incidents occurring outside of school hours.

**Engage** - supporting a whole-school approach that includes student voice and leadership.

**Educate** - proactive education for students, staff and families including curriculum, social media, staff wellbeing online and online safety incidents.

**Respond** - incident assessment tool, responding to incidents including explicit imagery, cyber abuse, those that target staff, supporting students, staff and families impacted by online incidents and a post-incident checklist.

### References

- [CASEL](#)
- [National Student Wellbeing Framework](#)
- [NSW PDHPE K-10 Syllabus](#)
- [eSafety Commissioner's Best Practice Framework for Online Safety and Implementation Guide](#)



### Tips

- Avoid scare and shock tactics.
- Address current and emerging risks and encourage student reporting.
- Promote effective help-seeking in PDHPE and wellbeing time.
- Ensure processes and procedures are well-defined for students, staff and families, including when learning from home.
- Contextual initiatives are more effective in comparison to one-off events or one-size-fits-all approaches.

### eSafety resources to support online safety education

- [Early Childhood](#)
- [Primary students](#) and [eSafety Kids](#)
- [Virtual classrooms](#) and student webinars
- [Secondary students](#) and [Young people](#)
- [Educator advice and professional learning](#)
- [Parent/Carer Education](#)