

School charter of commitment to online safety

eSafety Toolkit for Schools

Creating safer online environments



A school charter of commitment to online safety helps to set the expectations for how school community members work together and keep each other safe online.

It is an agreed set of values and assurances the school community makes to create safer online environments for everyone. A Charter should be an integral component of a whole-school approach to safety and wellbeing.

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Aim:

Creating a school charter of commitment to online safety is an opportunity to define and encourage safe, responsible and respectful online behaviours in your school community.

It should aim to empower school community members to interact freely online and to enjoy the benefits of this — without risking their rights, safety or wellbeing.

A Charter should include a set of easy-to-understand, highly visible statements that have safety and school community wellbeing at their core. It should be consistent with the relevant education department or sector's policies and procedures.

Design:

Schools are encouraged to engage with their community to develop a Charter that reflects their school's values and expectations. eSafety's [Survey of school community attitudes to online safety](#) and [School community engagement](#) plan can help schools with ways to involve the whole school community.

A Charter should be in plain language so it can be understood and accepted by all school community members. It's important to include links to, or reference, school procedures and state and territory policies, such as child protection policies, curriculum expectations, mandatory reporting requirements, wellbeing and anti-bullying policies, and staff or student codes of conduct.

Review:

Schools are encouraged to have processes in place to review their Charter annually and ensure that the principles and commitments are communicated to new members of the school community. This can be achieved by having the Charter prominently placed on the school's website or displayed in a public area at the school.

Example:

As part of eSafety's [Safety by Design initiative](#), we asked children and young people about the online world they want. Feedback from this was developed into a [vision statement](#) which is available for reference on the eSafety website.

As you consult with your unique school community, you may find another format is more appropriate.

A draft charter and template schools can edit and customise are on the following pages.

Example – Charter of Commitment to Online Safety

My school is committed to making sure each member of the school community can participate in an online environment that is safe, supportive and inclusive.

Empower

We will **empower** the school community to interact freely, and enjoy the benefits using the internet — without fear and without individuals' wellbeing or safety being put at risk.

Secure

We will keep **secure** by not disclosing personal or sensitive information online and by using secure online software, platforms and tools.

Accept

We will **accept** our shared responsibility for the safety and wellbeing of students by valuing them above all else, understanding the issues they face and protecting their privacy and safety online.

Follow

We will **follow** all relevant policies and procedures when engaging online or responding to incidents. We will also maintain appropriate personal and professional boundaries.

Ensure

We will **ensure** that all members of the school community are heard and have a say in creating a safe online environment.

Treat

We will **treat** all members of the community with courtesy and respect, both online and off. We will remain courteous and respectful even in the face of a problem.

You

We will support **you** to create a positive online culture that acknowledges and embraces the diverse backgrounds and needs of our community.

If an online incident occurs, school name community members will:

- ensure the best interests, safety and wellbeing of students is the main priority in any situation
- report any concerns to school leadership, in a calm and respectful manner
- follow school policies and procedures for receiving and responding to complaints and concerns
- inform and engage outside agencies and support systems as appropriate.

Charter enacted: DD/MM/YY

Last reviewed: DD/MM/YY

Charter of Commitment to Online Safety

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