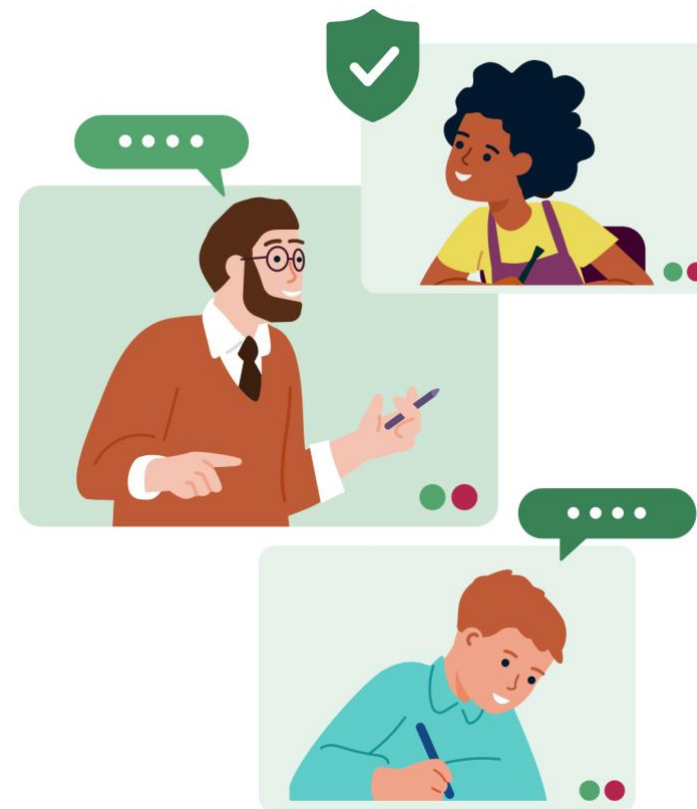




School community engagement plan



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Why has this plan been produced?

This resource provides strategies for schools to engage their communities in preventing and responding to online safety issues. It is designed to help schools engage with community concerns and create a shared understanding of, and responsibility for, online safety. Schools are encouraged to align their plans with school and/or education sector policies and procedures.

This resource is best used in conjunction with eSafety's [Engage - Activities for students to take the lead in online safety](#), which provides additional guidance and highlights the importance of student-led online safety strategies.

Online safety education is most effective when staff and families understand the complementary role they play in educating young people – both in and out of school. Involving the whole school community as active and valued participants in online safety is important for creating and maintaining a safe online environment.

An effective school community engagement plan builds on the [Australian Student Wellbeing Framework](#) elements of Partnerships, where 'families and communities collaborate as partners with the school to support student learning, safety and wellbeing' and Inclusion, where 'all members of the school community are active participants in building a welcoming school culture that values diversity, and fosters positive, respectful relationships'. Plans can also reflect Principle 3 from the [National Principles for Child Safe Organisations](#), and Child Safe Standards that apply in your state/territory. These highlight the importance of families and communities being informed and involved in promoting child safety and wellbeing.

School community engagement plan

Build a positive and inclusive culture

School community members engage with each other online in ways that are welcoming and inclusive.

Involve the school community in decision-making

Schools support community members to share their insights, identify issues and collaborate on responses as part of meaningful decision-making processes.

Share information and communicate regularly

Schools share relevant online safety information in a variety of formats which cater to the school community.

Collaborate with families and community partners

Schools promote online safety activities and events as part of a whole-of-community response.

Develop the knowledge and skills of parents/carers

Schools empower parents/carers to model, teach, and encourage appropriate online behaviours through access to high quality information and evidence-informed resources.

School community engagement plan			
Action Area	Goal	What we currently do	Other actions we could take
Build a positive and inclusive school culture	All school community members feel that their ideas, cultures and identities are respected.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage school community members to share their views about how to create safer online environments by having students survey their parents/carers. See Engage – Parents and carers survey • Using survey data, develop a school charter that sets the expectations for how school community members will engage online. See Engage – School charter of commitment to online safety. • Encourage the whole school community to engage positively and respectfully online. For guidance on using social media in schools, see Prepare – Guidelines for social media use – video sharing and online collaboration. Be aware that restrictions may apply to platforms that some schools currently use for educational purposes and to communicate with their students and community, so alternatives may need to be explored. Further information can be found here: Social media age restrictions hub eSafety Commissioner.
Involve the school community in decision-making	School community members feel their views are respected and heard, and processes are responsive to the needs of the school community.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consult the school community about online safety policy development and implementation. This could be through meetings with parent/carer organisations or parent/carer school board representatives, or by conducting focus groups or surveys. • Consult with a range of people that represent the full diversity of the school community. • Where appropriate, involve school community members in a ‘solutions-focused’ approach to dealing with online safety issues, both when they occur and at appropriate times during the incident response process.

<p>Share information and communicate regularly</p>	<p>School communities know where to find reliable information about online safety issues and approaches and openly exchange ideas.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embed the sharing of online safety information at school events attended by parents/carers. For example, during student enrolment processes, or when signing off on student acceptable use agreements and codes of conduct. Information could also be shared via electronic noticeboards for parent/teacher or presentation nights, and open days. • Ask students to share their ideas about how best to raise online safety awareness and empower them to lead online safety awareness raising. For example, in multimedia productions, performances, and artwork. • Encourage parents/carers and staff to sign up for eSafety News. Use eSafety's digital signage for primary and secondary schools – these can be displayed on electronic noticeboards and classroom whiteboards. • Use Educate – Tips for parent-carer education and engagement to create a regular section in every edition of the school's newsletter dedicated to online safety with tips for parents/carers. Invite students to contribute to newsletters by writing reviews of their favourite games and apps including their safety features or sharing their online safety tips – The eSafety Guide will help. • Share online safety policies and critical incident response procedures on the school website along with advice and links to high quality resources, such as those from the eSafety Commissioner and Bullying No Way. Consider linking to eSafety's website pages about how to report abuse from the school's intranet.
<p>Collaborate with families and community partners</p>	<p>Community members actively promote online safety within their school community.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As part of class projects, try peer mentoring to consolidate student knowledge and skills. See Engage – Activities for students to take the lead in online safety for more information. • Secondary schools can participate in intergenerational mentoring through eSafety's Young Mentor's program. This program offers young people the opportunity to develop valuable teaching, communication and leadership skills while facilitating digital learning for older members of the community. • Encourage parent/carers and community groups to develop online safety awareness campaigns or events for special days (for example, Safer Internet Day, the Bullying No Way! National Week of Action, and National Child Protection Week). These days can be leveraged to provide added momentum within a whole-school approach.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use eSafety's Family online safety in more languages to help families in your community talk with their children about online safety. • Access community organisations or eSafety's Trusted Providers who offer support for online safety. If inviting an external presenter to the school, see Educate – Guide to engaging external online safety providers to help decide what is best for your school community.
Develop parents/carers' skills and capabilities	<p>Parents/carers reinforce positive online behaviours at home and feel confident to help children solve problems they encounter online – including where to find help and support. Parents/carers are confident to use reporting pathways when necessary.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide school community members with opportunities to develop their online skills through informal and formal training. This could include online safety webinars, face-to-face sessions, links to resources and printed copies of eSafety's Parents Online safety book, available for download. • Refer parents/carers to eSafety Parents page – do this early and often! • Provide online safety information and referral services in various languages. Refer parents/carers to translation services, such as the Translation and Interpreting Service (TIS National) on 131 450. • Invite parents/carers to join group lessons in online safety at school, where students share their own skills and experiences to help develop those of their parents/carers. • Encourage parents/carers of young children to create a family tech agreement. This can help to align and complement online safety messages both at home and at school. • Let parents/carers know that eSafety has help available for culturally and linguistically diverse families, in languages other than English.