Find out how SFYS can support your school or agency by contacting the SFYS Coordinator in your local area

- Boroondara: 9835 7826
- Knox: 9298 8465
- Monash: 9518 3900
- Whitehorse: 9262 6374
- Yarra Ranges: 9294 6716
- Maroondah/Manningham: 9294 5700 (Tues, Wed, Thurs) 9294 5704 (Mon and Tues)

CYBERSAFETY
Cybersafety issues include: internet usage, monitoring and control of internet use, problem use, compulsive use, cyber bullying and legal issues.

Just like in the offline world, no amount of effort to reduce potential risks to children will eliminate those risks completely. We cannot make the internet completely safe. Because of this, we must also build children’s resilience to the material to which they may be exposed so that they have the confidence and skills to navigate these new media waters more safely. (Executive Summary, Byron Review Children and New Technology, UK 2008)

School Focused Youth Service (SFYS) supports prevention and early intervention strategies for vulnerable young people between 10 and 18 years of age by:
- Strengthening partnerships between schools and community service organisations to meet the needs of vulnerable children and young people
- Identifying service gaps and developing strategies to respond to needs identified by schools and community service organisations
- Providing brokerage funds to support projects in schools and the community that address service gaps
Cybersafety Resources and Activities

Learning On Line


The Learning On Line website presents the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development’s advice for schools on cybersafety and educating young people to be responsible users of mobile and digital technologies. This website has been developed to help schools make the most of the opportunities presented by new developments in, and increased accessibility to digital technologies. At the same time it aims to support schools to minimise risks that may arise through the use of these technologies.

The website has four key areas of focus that assist principals and teachers to:

- Lead policy development and whole school planning and practices utilising research and evidence based pedagogy.
- Educate students about the safe and ethical use of digital technologies and explore emerging technologies and their role in the classroom.
- Manage internet access and understand online legalities, including those related to supervision, digital copyright and online privacy.
- Empower students by providing opportunities for authentic student leadership, action and voice.

National Day of Action Against Bullying Competition

The inaugural National Day of Action Against Bullying was Friday 18 March 2011. The day highlighted the efforts of schools and communities to address bullying and violence. This year’s theme ‘Take a Stand Together’ (www.takeastandtogether.com.au) promoted the importance of bystander behaviour and encouraged all young people to take a stand together. The Bullying. No Way! (https://www.bullyingnoway.com.au) website provides dedicated links to specific resources and activities for school communities, classrooms and parents on bystander behaviour and bullying.

The ‘Top 10 Things to do with Students around Cybersafety’ (https://fuse.education.vic.gov.au/Pages/dayagainstbullying.aspx) has been developed by the Department to further support schools to participate in the National Day of Action Against Bullying.

Cyber S@vvy

Siena College in partnership with SFYS and the Stride Foundation coordinated a whole school approach (middle school) to educate staff, students and parents about responsible cyber use and cyber safety. Students awareness and understanding of the responsible use of ICT was explored, parents increased their understanding of duty of care and other legal responsibilities and Siena staff were trained in the Cyber S@vvy program. This ensured they were aware of the issues and the strategies of the program and provided essential knowledge so that the program could become part of the schools IT curriculum in Year 7.
SuperClubs Plus

DEECD in partnership with Intuitive Media, has made the educational, secure online learning space SuperClubsPLUS (SCP) available free to all Victorian Years 3 and 4 students. The SCP environment, moderated by trained educators, enables students aged 6-12 years to connect with other students and learn about safe online behaviours.

For further information go to www.education.vic.gov.au/management/lol/empower/studentpart.htm

To register go to registrations@intuitivemedia.com.au

Other community based resources you could tap in to include:

- Local Government Youth Support Services
- Local Police Youth Resource Officer (YRO)
- Or contact your School Focused Youth Service Coordinator on the numbers listed at the front of the newsletter.

Resources for professionals

www.cybersmart.gov.au Australian Communications and Media Authority
www.thinkuknow.org.au Australian Federal Police
www.cybersafekids.com.au Robyn Treyvaud
www.amf.org.au/eSmart/ eSmart schools

DVD Resource on Cyber bullying: "Lets fight it together"

www.digizen.co.uk

The photograph DVD 'sexting' resources: http://www.cybersafekids.com.au/
(Robyn Reynaud) (www.theeducationshop.com.au)

Cyber S@vvy feedback:

During small group discussions, the feedback for the Cyber safety program has been overwhelmingly positive. Year 7’s and parents reported actually learning the most and older students were positive about being reminded about the dangers of and their responsibilities when using social networking.

“I learnt many things, including the consequences of cyber bullying, who it impacts and how it impacts people (Year 7 student).

“It makes me think whenever I go on the computer” (Year 7 student).

“It was great to have the opportunity to discuss cyber safety issues with other parents” (Middle school parent).
Tips for Parents

great content for school newsletters

what are the signs your child is being cyber bullied?

The following handy tips for parents come from: http://www.bullyingnoway.com.au

The signs of cyberbullying can be the same as signs of other bullying, also including certain behaviors with phones and computers. For example:

- being hesitant to be online
- seeming nervous when an instant message, text message or email appears
- being visibly upset after using the computer or mobile phone, or suddenly avoiding it
- minimising the computer screen, or hiding the mobile phone when you enter the room
- spending unusually long hours online in a more tense, pensive tone
- receiving suspicious phone calls, emails or packages
- withdrawing from friends, falling behind in schoolwork, or avoiding school
- becoming suddenly sullen, evasive, withdrawn, or showing a marked change in personality or behaviour
- having trouble sleeping, loss of appetite, excessive moodiness or crying, or seeming depressed
- a decline in academic performance.

So what can parents do?

Get involved and be aware

- Learn everything you can about information and communication technologies and how your child is using them. Talk to them about the places they go online and the activities that they are involved in.
- Encourage your child to come to you if anybody says or does something that makes them feel uncomfortable or threatened. Stay calm and keep the lines of communication and trust open. If you “freak out” they won’t turn to you for help when they need it.

Take action if your daughter or son is being bullied online

- Watch out for signs that your child is being bullied online – a reluctance to use the computer or go to school may be an indication.
- If the bullying is coming from a student at the same school, meet with school officials and ask for help in resolving the situation.
- Report any incident of online harassment and physical threats to your local police and your Internet Service Provider (ISP).
- If your child is bullied through a mobile phone, report the problem to your phone service provider. If it’s a persistent problem you can change the phone number.

Encourage your child to develop their own moral code so they will choose to behave ethically with the technologies

- Talk to them about responsible use. Teach them to never post or say anything that they wouldn’t want the whole world - including you - to see or read.
- Work with them to create a contract or agreement with clear rules about ethical behaviour.