

- They are often also afraid to report incidents, as they fear that adults will take away their mobile phone, computer and/or Internet access.
- In most cases, cyberbullies know their targets, but their victims don't always know their cyberbullies.
- Communications technology has become ubiquitous. As a result, Cyberbullying can happen any time and any place and for many children, home is no longer a safe haven from bullying.

PUBLISHING A SCHOOL WEBSITE

Publishing a school or class website presents a wide range of learning opportunities for both teachers and students. Often, as students with advanced technology skills become project leaders, teachers take on a new role as either facilitator or learner. Through this activity, curricular resources can be shared, collaborative projects can be undertaken and the school can be promoted within the wider community.

Benefits

- Students and teachers are given an opportunity to learn technical skills related to web authoring.
- Students gain an appreciation of the online publishing process (planning, creating storyboards, content development, teamwork, testing, evaluation, editing etc.) and publishing for a wider target audience.
- Students gain an insight into roles and responsibilities associated with project work.

Risks

- Photographs of children may be downloaded by social groups for illegal use.
- The publication of personal details may place students at risk of being contacted either face-to-face or online by other users.

Guidelines

- Identify the purpose and structure of the website.
- Define what is considered appropriate for publication on the school website. This should be included in the school AUP.
- Consider who has access to the server aside from the IT Co-ordinator. Assign roles and responsibilities to those classes or teachers who manage information on the web server.
- Never publish class lists.
- Photographs of children should focus on the activity they are engaged in.
- Never publish a student's name beside their photograph.
- Permission to publish student work, photographs, video or audio clips should be sought from parents either as part of the AUP or independently.
- Reference student work by username.
- Consider copyright laws, privacy rights and data protection regulations.

Other considerations

- Consider the need for editorial responsibility.
- In the context of the Internet, identifying editorial responsibility and accountability can be very difficult. There is no legal requirement that material published on the Internet have an identified editor. However, if it is possible to identify the editor of online content then that person, or persons, may be held liable for their involvement. In respect of large websites, different parts of a site may have different editors and this will most likely be the case with schools.
- To avoid online plagiarism, seek permission to use copyrighted content from the website author. A permission template available from <http://www.landmark-project.com/permission1.php> can be used for this task.

NEWSGROUPS/DISCUSSION FORUMS

Newsgroups, discussion forums and message boards are electronic forums where ideas and knowledge can be exchanged. The term "Usenet" refers to a collection of newsgroups.

Currently there are thousands of newsgroups covering a range of different topics. Unlike chat rooms, newsgroups, discussion forums and message boards do not function in live or "real" time.

Benefits

- Teachers and students can talk to experts, share ideas and experiences.

Risks

- Exposure to illegal or harmful material.
- Flaming: flaming refers to a barrage of angry messages directed towards a person or persons. It is considered to be bad manners to flame someone.
- Contact with unsuitable social groups.
- Most forums are not edited for content and anyone with an Internet connection can easily send in contributions.

Guidelines

- Check if a licensing agreement or additional newsreader software such as "Free Agent" is necessary.
- Consider which forums are provided by the school's ISP (Internet Service Provider).
- Are there any forums in general that are relevant to the needs of the school and the delivery of the curriculum?
- Be informed about how the school intends to monitor the use of newsgroups of each class.
- Stress to students the importance of reporting inappropriate material and online harassment to teachers and relevant organisations.
- Consider downloading a free discussion board forum from the Internet and incorporating it into the school website or intranet.

Blogs

Blogs (short for "web logs") are basically online diaries or journals. They are relatively easy to set up, and are quite cheap, or often free, to maintain. They are popular among teenagers, but are also used by journalists, authors, politicians and other professionals to keep in touch with their readers, supporters or clients. They can be password protected or open to all Internet users (just like regular websites). Some also have the facility for readers to post messages and make comments.

Benefits

- Enables students to gain an insight into the day to day activities of various professions.
- Enables students to create and share online journals for projects.

Risks

- Students may be tempted to divulge personal information online.
- Possibility of exposure to online bullying.
- Possibility of accessing blogs with illegal or harmful content.
- Possibility of contact with unsuitable social groups.

Guidelines

- Are there any blogs that are relevant to the needs of the school and the delivery of the curriculum?
- Be informed about how the school intends to monitor the use of blogs in class.
- Stress to students the importance of reporting inappropriate material and online harassment to teachers and relevant organisations.
- Use of individual students' names online should be avoided.