ThinkUKnow Program

ThinkUKnow is a free, evidence-based cyber safety program that provides presentations to Australian parents, carers and teachers and students. It provides information on the technologies young people use, the challenges they may face, and importantly, how they can be overcome. Presentations are delivered face to face or digitally.

We aim to provide you with the tools to create a safer online environment for young people in your care. Our presentations cover what young people SAY, SEE and DO online.

What young people SEE online

We talk about challenges such as online grooming, 'sexting', cyberbullying and inappropriate content.

What you can do to support young people through online challenges.

We also explain how to report if something goes wrong.

What young people SAY online

What you can do to help support young people understand what they say online can be permanent. We call this our 'digital shadow'.

This includes talking about being respectful online, thinking before you post, knowing what information is okay to share online.

What young people DO online

How they use technology to have fun online, such as applications (or apps), websites and social networks.

How they can handle their digital shadow, including their privacy and relationships online.

ThinkUKnow was started in the United Kingdom by the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP) and was developed for Australian audiences by the AFP in 2009.

The program is a partnership between the Australian Federal Police (AFP), Microsoft Australia, Datacom and the Commonwealth Bank, and is delivered in collaboration with New South Wales Police Force, Northern Territory Police, Queensland Police Service, South Australia Police, Tasmania Police, Western Australia Police and Victoria Police as well as Neighbourhood Watch Australia.

ThinkUKnow for students

ThinkUKnow cyber safety sessions for students are available in schools to provide students with important cyber safety education. ThinkUKnow youth sessions are delivered by all state and territory police and cater for Kindergarten to Grade 12.

These sessions provide information that is tailored to the following age groups:

Kindergarten - Year 2 (ages 5 –7)

This tailored session will identify how to stay safe online, who uses the internet, why people use the internet and the importance of not sharing personal details with people online. This education session focuses on adult supervision and will encourage children to speak to an adult before using the internet, use safe searching , along with basic concepts of cyberbullying and what support is available to staying safe online.

Years 3 – 4 (ages 8 – 9)

Students will learn about how the internet is used, why unidentifiable usernames and passwords are essential to maintaining privacy and security and why adult supervision and permission is important before signing up to apps and websites. There will be conversations around online gaming, cyberbullying, respectful language and talking to people online. Along with this, the session will also cover safe searching and what help is available.

Years 5 – 6 (ages 10 – 11)

Students in this age group will have a session building on concepts of technology and online safety. Discussions will be held around usernames, passwords and privacy settings when using websites and apps. Further to this, students will learn about true and false information, safe searching and staying safe while using instant messaging. The presenter will also speak about sharing images or videos and what information can be gathered from these. Online gaming, staying safe when playing online games, cyberbullying and what help is available to students to support them staying safe online will also be discussed.