

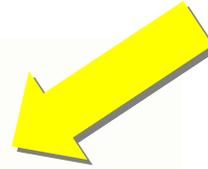
What can Parents do?

Adults are generally not as digitally savvy as children. Young people frequently have an advantage in this way. Parents must increase their awareness of social networking and monitor their children's use of technology for these media.

- **Speak candidly** about the dangers of online risk— posting personal information, enabling the GPS function
- Check to make sure **privacy settings are set at the strictest levels**. Though this protects from most unwanted exposure, there are often ways around these settings.
- Discuss the **negative consequences** of using technology for bullying behavior (comments, threats, rumors, etc.).
- Teach kids about their **online reputation**. The reality is that friends of friends, colleges, credit agencies, advertisers and future employers all have various access to these postings— the long range impact can be devastating.

Remember, the Internet is public. If someone wants to find you, or what you have posted (or even posted and then deleted!), they can! Every online action leaves a "cyber footprint" (Willard, 2007) for many years...

It is typical for parents to stress the importance of children not speaking with strangers or not getting in a car with someone they do not know. The ongoing conversation of Internet safety ought to be just as typical.



For more information, go to:

<http://www.ncpc.org/programs/national-crime-prevention-association>

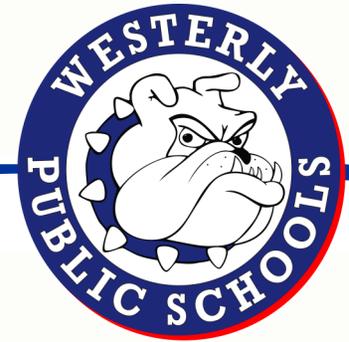
<http://www.netsmartz.org/Parents>

<http://stompoutbullying.org>



The Westerly Public Schools Bullying Policy (No. 2034) is pursuant to the General Laws of Rhode Island (16-21-34). This policy can be found at:

<http://westerly-school-committee.westerlyps.schoolfusion.us>



#cybersafety

@ WPS

Do you know what your child is doing and saying online?

"Safety and security don't just happen; they are the result of collective consensus and public investment. We owe our children, the most vulnerable citizens in our society, a life free of violence and fear." (Nelson Mandela, 2002, p. ix)

A recent study conducted by Johnson & Wales University sampled 1,254 students, grades 5-12, and found that only 42% of middle school and 47% of high school students understand the risks of inappropriate online behavior. Moreover, 19% of middle school and 23% of high school students reported being bullied online. These statistics are startling since only 34% of middle school students and 13% of high school students stated their parents monitor their online behaviors and 42% of middle school and 58% of high school students reported they would not go to their parents if they were contacted by a stranger or if they felt they were a target of bullying behavior.

Social Media Sites/Apps

Privacy Risk

Behavior Risk



Snap chat

Photos can be captured by taking a screen shot.

Can send mean or threatening photos that disappear with little to no evidence.



Instagram & Facebook

Even with privacy settings, strangers can access content.

Can post inappropriate photos and private information. Group bullying can occur.



Ask.fm

Anyone can ask you a question, even if you do not know them.

Questions can be asked anonymously on the computer or iPad; not anonymous on phones.



Tumblr

People can see what you are interested in.

Can bully and be bullied anonymously



Vine

Anyone can view videos. No privacy.

Can post videos of others



Twitter

Tweets are public and are published in writing.

Indirect tweets can be just as damaging and are seen by the masses.

Consistently monitor comments, pictures and files your child posts online

Know what sites your child visits and what applications they have on their devices. Discuss with them who it is safe to associate with online then regularly monitor all online activity. You should know exactly what information is being posted. It is important to frequently check your child's profile details and all posted content. Remind your child about the accessibility and very public nature of any posting.

REPORT BULLYING: - To a trusted adult - WMS/WHS Anti-Bullying Web Page - Anti-Bullying Hotline: (401) 315.1585