Tips for supporting staff wellbeing online

eSafety Toolkit for Schools

Creating safer online environments



This tip sheet provides suggestions to support staff wellbeing online — encouraging them to create and maintain a healthy relationship with technology. There are a number of steps schools can take to promote wellbeing for all staff members.

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School policies and procedures

- Ensure <u>school policies and procedures</u> set clear expectations about what is considered acceptable communication for all members of the school community, both online and offline.
- Encourage staff to be familiar with school, education department or sector's social media policies, if applicable, and eSafety's <u>social media guidelines</u>.
- Set professional boundaries and expectations for social media use, including identifying appropriate interactions while maintaining professional relationships.

Encourage help-seeking and wellbeing

- Encourage staff to seek help that supports them to look after their digital wellbeing (e.g. <u>Google's</u> <u>Digital Wellbeing</u> website, <u>iOS features</u>, <u>Beyond</u> <u>Blue's Staff Wellbeing</u> resources).
- Respond promptly and seriously to all allegations of cyber abuse directed at staff by members of the school community.
- Promote eSafety's <u>Cyber Abuse resource</u>, which outlines skills and strategies for responding to cyber abuse.
- Provide clear lines of referral to employee assistance providers, union representatives, wellbeing representatives and external support agencies. Consider including this in a staff wellbeing plan (e.g. <u>Head's Up</u> strategies for healthy workplaces).

Set positive examples

- Help staff manage their workload and time spent online by encouraging them to establish set times to deal with their inbox.
- Encourage the use of the 'three Ds' rule: delete, delegate, do for email communication.
- Implement strategies to minimise work-related stressors, such as not sending emails outside of regular business hours.
- Encourage staff to maintain their privacy online. Refer to <u>eSafety's tips</u> on protecting personal information.

