Tip #1: Create a positive culture

Rather than restricting access to the web or using fear-based messages, the best way to manage challenges online is to work them out together.

Effective prevention strategies emphasise approaches that actively involve discussing with students how they use digital technology, and more specifically, the challenges they experience online and how they keep safe. Teachers, students, peers, parents, family and whānau all have a role in this process. There are no quick fixes.

- Talk to our learners, children and colleagues about online activity; cybersecurity behaviours
- Lose the fear-based messages. Plan an approach that balances protective approaches, such as technical mediation of student online access, with strategies that promote safe, responsible and pro-social behaviours
- Provide support when they meet challenges

Tip #2: Design safety into learning

Design experiences and learning opportunities that invite learners to pick up new skills safely and in meaningful contexts. Weave safety messages into the learning process. Make it part of learning plans before we set out with our students.

- Look for opportunities to connect with students across the world
- Use social networks to foster conversations about issues
- Weave web tools through local inquiry — take action in your community

Tip #3: Use the right tools

Use the tools that come with all devices and platforms to restrict or monitor our information and identity online as part of an overall strategy to manage safe use online.

- Make sure we know how to manage our devices and the security systems that are in-built
- Set up secure passwords and consider using software to manage them
- Explore the use of Safe Search and student-friendly browsers

Tip #4: Give respect, get respect

The internet can be a powerful tool for connecting and working with others, both locally and globally.

- Find ways to collaborate and learn to work positively with others online
- Teach our learners to manage their online reputations
- Design learning that creates safe, meaningful opportunities to grow ideas responsibly with others online

Tip #5: Walk the talk as a community

Safe and responsible use of the internet becomes normalised through the way we all behave together online.

- Model critical thinking when using the internet
- Find real-life, positive ways to model the use of the web as part of our own learning. Guide others

For more great advice, visit netsafe.org.nz