

## eSmart – Is it Ok to Post?



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Welcome back to Term 3 and I hope everyone was able to find some warmth over the holidays, be it by the heater or in the sun somewhere up north! My family and I, were very fortunate to have four weeks in northern Western Australia travelling the Gibb River Road. This is an old cattle route that runs between Derby (near Broome) and Kununurra (near the NT border). We travelled through some amazing countryside from gorges to deserts to beaches all under a deep blue sky. We were keen to share our experiences with family and friends and this meant thinking carefully about how we would do this in an eSmart manner.

Sharing photos on social media has become such a normal part of life, that we too often do it without thinking – posting photographs of ourselves, our children and sometimes other people’s children. Every family has different points of view on posting photos – some are comfortable putting their children’s photographs online others are not. It is important that we respect these varying points of view. It is important not to assume that your beliefs in this area, are shared by everyone.

We ask, that all parents, **do not share** photographs and/or videos of children at Vermont Primary School and Kindergarten events without parental permission of all concerned. Our eSmart program teaches children that it is particularly unsafe to post photographs of themselves in school uniform.

So what can you do if someone posts photographs of your child/ren without permission. This can require careful handling so as not to alienate or create conflicts with other parents. [Commonsense Media](#) suggest the following:

- Without judgment, ask the person who posted it to delete it, or crop it so your kid isn't in the picture (easy to do with today's image-editing tools). Say, "I'm not ready for this yet."
- Ask the poster not to tag the photo with names -- and definitely not location. That will limit exposure.
- Ask the poster what his or her privacy settings are. If their profile is private and not public, only their friends can view their images which limits the audience for your child's photo.
- If you're OK with a photo but only want certain people to see it, ask the poster to enable settings that limit who can see the photo to a small circle.
- Ask the poster to instead use a private photo-sharing site such as Picasa or Flickr that requires a log-in.
- If you meet with resistance, explain that you're worried about your kid's privacy. Once a photo is online, anyone can share it.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact or visit me if you would like further information on this or any other cyber safety issue.

You can use the QR code or link at the top of the article to let me know you have read it.

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