

## St Charles Borromeo becomes first eSmart school

The Alannah and Madeline Foundation, a national charity protecting children from violence, is pleased to announce St Charles Borromeo Primary School as the first school to become eSmart in Australia.

Since participating in the eSmart cybersafety initiative's national pilot program in 2010, St Charles Borromeo has been an enthusiastic adopter of eSmart.

eSmart was specifically designed to guide and support the implementation of an effective system in schools to deal with bullying, cyberbullying and cybersafety.

St Charles Borromeo recognised the value of eSmart and integrated the system with their existing student wellbeing activities to help students become safer online, but also to extend their work on building a caring and respectful school culture.

The Alannah and Madeline Foundation CEO, Dr Judith Slocombe, said the Foundation was proud of St Charles Borromeo's accomplishment.

"St Charles Borromeo is a progressive school that has its finger on the pulse of current issues around student wellbeing and cybersafety," Dr Slocombe said.

"St Charles Borromeo is a highly engaged and proactive school; it shows terrific support for two of the Foundation's programs, eSmart and Better Buddies, to help prevent all forms of bullying in the school. We congratulate the staff and students on their hard work to be the first school in Australia to achieve this magnificent accomplishment.

"As one in four students in Australia are bullied over a period of several weeks<sup>1</sup> and one in 10 are cyberbullied<sup>2</sup>, tackling this prevalent subject is very important, particularly as technology becomes more naturally integrated into students' lives."

St Charles Borromeo eSmart Coordinator, Sue Cahill, said eSmart has created a behaviour change in staff, students and parents, where there is now a common language and respectful understanding, around the importance of being smart, safe and responsible online.


"Our school saw the rise of the cyber world in our students' lives and although we took steps to educate about it, we knew we were missing a framework to implement a whole-of-school approach," Ms Cahill said. "eSmart filled that gap and was a catalyst for our students to allow teachers to understand the cyber world through their eyes, and for them to develop accountability for a critical area of their wellbeing."

"We now have the appropriate strategies in place to effectively deal with cases of cyberbullying should they arise. eSmart has empowered staff and students with expert knowledge on how to stay smart, safe and responsible. It has also provided the school's staff with clear strategies for keeping on top of the issues – now, and into the future.

"Our parents are also very thrilled with the results; we consistently educate them on cybersafety to keep them informed, and they thank us, because eSmart has helped their children become more savvy users of digital technology. They say eSmart is a huge gain for the whole school community."

There are 489 schools registered to participate in eSmart across the country and all sectors. In Victoria, the Foundation is working with the state government, as part of its \$10.5 million Stamp Out Bullying program, to progressively roll out eSmart to all government schools over the next four years.

The Foundation is well on track to reach its goal for eSmart to be a part of over 7,000 schools by 2015, and eventually to achieve its vision for all Australian schools to be eSmart.



The Foundation is inviting interested schools to register now. Visit the eSmart website [www.esmart.org.au](http://www.esmart.org.au) or for more information about The Alannah and Madeline Foundation, visit [www.amf.org.au](http://www.amf.org.au)

For more information about St Charles Borromeo Primary School visit [www.scbtemplestowe.catholic.edu.au](http://www.scbtemplestowe.catholic.edu.au)

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**To coordinate an interview or photo opportunity please contact Kate Doman on 0417 540 600 / [kate.doman@amf.org.au](mailto:kate.doman@amf.org.au) or Shannon Eagles on 0409 159 900 / [shannon.eagles@amf.org.au](mailto:shannon.eagles@amf.org.au)**

**About The Alannah and Madeline Foundation:** The Alannah and Madeline Foundation is a national charity protecting children from violence and its devastating impact. The Foundation was established in memory of Alannah and Madeline Mikac, aged 6 and 3, who were tragically killed with their mother and 32 others at Port Arthur, Tasmania on 28 April 1996. The Foundation cares for children who have experienced or witnessed violence, and runs programs that help to prevent violence in the lives of children. Our vision is that every child will live in a safe and supportive environment. For more information visit: [www.amf.org.au](http://www.amf.org.au) or call 1300 720 747.

<sup>1</sup> Rigby, 1998

<sup>2</sup> Ibid, Schedule 2 p 41