

**KERATAN AKHBAR-AKHBAR TEMPATAN
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Cyberbullying a big threat among students

THE survey under the DiGi "CyberSAFE in Schools" programme is the single largest carried out in the country to gauge schoolchildren's level of awareness and understanding of cyber safety, risks and protection.

The programme is an effort under a partnership initiated between the Education Ministry, DiGi Telecommunications Sdn Bhd and CyberSecurity Malaysia in 2011 to create awareness and to equip students and educators with the ability to enable a family-friendly Internet experience through education.

The survey, which involved 10,000 children from 460 schools nationwide, found that 27 per cent of children had been bullied, while 13 per cent said they were still being

bullied online.

Some 49 per cent of students said they knew of someone who had been bullied online.

A significant number of students who had been bullied turned to parents, siblings and friends for help, while six per cent said they kept it a secret.

The common types of online bullying included the sending or receiving of nasty messages, being called mean names and the hacking of online accounts.

The survey revealed that 32 per cent of schoolchildren were easy targets of abuse as they had only one password for all online accounts, while a third admitted to not changing their password even though they

know it was weak.

Of the 68 per cent of schoolchildren who had access to the Internet at home, a significant number spent an average of eight hours a week online.

Some 68 per cent of children said they used the Internet primarily for social networking.

The survey also revealed that four in 10 parents had never spoken to their children on the need to protect themselves online, with less than half admitting to not having any parental control. Additionally, a third of parents did not impose rules for Internet use.

More than half of the respondents were introduced to the Internet by their family members or relatives.