Should computers be allowed in the bedroom?

It has been suggested that in all homes with school-age children, computers should be located in areas used by many family members. The majority of parents agree with this idea but their children hold a very different view. What is your opinion?

Primarily, parents want to see what their children are doing on the computer. They are seriously concerned about cyberbullying and its effect on their children. They name it as the number one reason for wanting computers to remain in a part of the house where the screen and their child's reaction to what is on it, can be monitored.

In response, students say they feel uncomfortable having someone peering over their shoulder all the time. One student is reported to have said that she couldn't finish the homework she was doing because she felt uncomfortable knowing that her mum was reading it while she typed.

Another concern for parents is offensive material that their children may come across while researching for school projects. Even with parental blocks, some unpleasant, inappropriate material can slip through.

In answer to this, students say they will alert their parents to any suspect websites so that they can be blocked. But most believe it is essential to have the computer in the bedroom as this is the best place for them to concentrate and complete their homework without interruption.

While parents agree that a quiet environment aids concentration, some suggest that the time spent on the computer is not always for homework. If the computer is in the bedroom, they cannot tell how much homework is actually being done.

To counter this, students state that parents can always come in and check on progress. As homework diaries have to be signed by parents and are checked by a teacher each day, students are unlikely not to complete their homework.

In conclusion, both parties have presented valid arguments to be considered when making the decision about where to locate a computer. Having heard each other's point of view, it is possible that either party may reconsider its opinion. Have you?