Digital citizenship

Digital citizenship refers to the responsible use of technology by anyone who uses computers, the Internet, and digital devices to engage with society on any level.

Digital citizenship can be defined as engaging in appropriate and responsible behavior when using technology.

It encompasses digital literacy, ethics, etiquette, online safety, norms, rights, culture and more.

What is responsible digital citizenship?

Being a responsible digital citizen means having the online social skills to take part in online community life in an ethical and respectful way.

Responsible digital citizenship also means:

- behaving lawfully – for example, it's a crime to hack, steal, illegally download or cause damage to other people's work, identity or property online
- protecting your privacy and that of others
- recognizing your rights and responsibilities when using digital media
- thinking about how your online activities affect yourself, other people you know, and the wider online community.

Digital citizen

A digital citizen is one who knows what is right and wrong, exhibits intelligent technology behavior, and makes good choices when using technology

A good digital citizen:

- Protect private information for themselves and others
- Respect themselves and others
- Stay safe online
- Stand up to cyberbullying when they see it happening
- Balance the time they spend online and using media
- Respect copyright and intellectual property
- Carefully manage their digital footprint

Key messages for safe and responsible digital citizenship

- Be respectful – and expect respect.

Respect for yourself and other people is important in all relationships, and it's no different when you're online.

Treat online friends with as much respect as face-to-face friends. If you see someone being bullied or attacked online, inform your parents or other adult members.

If you get any nasty or bullying comments, block or unfriend people who don't treat you with respect. This sends the message that it's not OK to mistreat or bully someone online.

- Protect your reputation.

Understand the **consequences of posting photos and videos.** Once this content is online, it's very hard to get rid of and can become part of your permanent online reputation.

- Protect your privacy.

There are several ways you can protect your privacy:

- Share only as much personal information as necessary – for example, it's not compulsory to enter your year of birth, mobile number, email address or city on all online forms.
- Keep privacy settings up to date on social media sites, so your profile isn't publicly available.
- Keep passwords private.

- Watch your tone

It's often hard to 'read' emotion in posts and emails, and jokes can easily be misinterpreted. SO 'stop, think, review' before you send a message or post an online comment. Using emoji's or hashtags can help.

- Be skeptical

There are many dodgy people, places and offers online.

Not everyone online is who they say they are. It's important for your to be careful about what you share with people you don't know