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Digital Citizenship

Note to reader:

Please be advised, our review of the information on digital citizenship outlined below in no way overrides or suggests inefficiencies with the technology and school policies for the Hanover School Division and Niverville Middle School (NMS).

These references are meant as additional resources to bring awareness and further educational resource options for parents.

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What is digital citizenship?

Digital Citizenship can be defined as engaging in appropriate and responsible behaviour when using technology. It is a concept which helps us understand what all technology users should know to use technology appropriately and responsibly.



Digital Citizenship is a way of Thinking, Being, and Acting in a digital world.

Thinking critically by not trusting everything you see and hear on the internet.

Being safe with your information and who you connect with.

Acting in a responsible manner in how you communicate and behave online.

How do parents keep up to date and make informed decisions on online safety?

In today's digitally connected world, children and adults are constantly presented with new ways to engage, react and contribute. We're sociable beings; it's a natural human instinct, especially amongst younger audiences, to want to belong and join in.

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Without endorsement of one particular resource over another, one parent shares information discovered on a website committed to online safety and training.

The National Online Safety website https://nationalonlinesafety.com/ is just one resource who make it their mission to make the internet a safer place for children. We understand parents have many resources available, and this is just one site to consider in your review list for additional information in helping make informed decisions for personal digital citizenship.

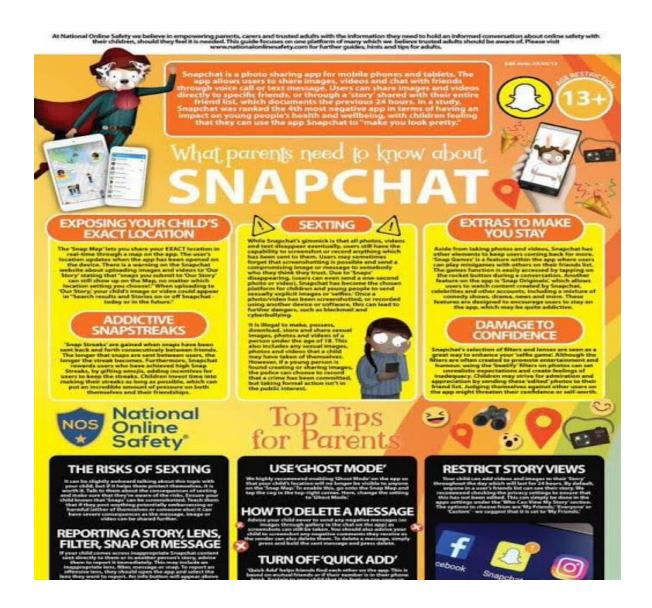
The Guides section of the website has easy to read one-page summaries for tips and wellness when using Social Media, Technology, Gaming, and Devices. From applications like Instagram, Snapchat, Kik, and Tik Tok to games like Minecraft, Call of Duty, FIFA 20, Grand Theft Auto, and Fortnite.

The Guides section includes overall online safety tips for parents and children, and understanding terminology like "sadfishing", the impacts of mental health and social media, online challenges, and even cyberbullying.

Take a moment to see many of the site examples including Reddit, You Tube, Facebook, and a free guide to internet controls. We've included one guide example to illustrate the format to demonstrate if this layout suits your learning style:



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Talk to your children about internet safety and be involved in their digital life

Talk to your child regularly about their favourite websites and apps, and what he or she enjoys doing online. Be supportive and always listen with an open mind. By keeping the lines of communication open, your child will be more likely to come to you if they encounter any problems online in the future.

More important than blocking objectionable material is teaching your children safe and responsible online behavior and keeping an eye on their internet use.

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Here are some basic guidelines to share with your child for safe online use:

- Follow family rules and those set out by the internet service provider.
- Never post or trade person pictures.
- Never reveal personal information, such as address, phone number, or school name or location.
- Use only a screen name and don't share passwords (other than with parents).
- Never agree to get together in person with anyone met online and discuss with the parent if someone has asked you to meet them.
- Never respond to a threatening email, message, post, or text.
- Always tell a parent or other trusted adult about any communication or conversation that was scary or hurtful.

Basic guidelines for parental supervision:

- Spend time online together to teach your kids appropriate online behavior.
- Keep the computer in a common area where you can watch and monitor its use, not in individual bedrooms. Monitor (and limit) any time spent on smartphones or tablets.
- Bookmark kids' favorite sites for easy access.
- Check your credit card and phone bills for unfamiliar account charges.
- Find out what, if any, online protection is offered by your child's school, after-school center, friends' homes, or any place where kids could use a computer without your supervision.
- Take your child seriously if he or she reports an uncomfortable online exchange.

For more information on talking to your child about internet safety:

https://www.csa.gov.sg/gosafeonline/go-safe-for-me/for-parents/talking-to-your-child-about-internet-safety