



During the autumn term in the English Primary Section the computing (ICT) focus is on Digital Literacy and Citizenship. The following guidance will help parents to better understand how to keep children safe whilst online.

What is Digital Citizenship and why is it important?

Digital Citizenship is a concept which helps teachers and parents to understand what students need to know to use technology appropriately, it prepares students for today's technological society. Digital Citizenship means appropriate and responsible use of technology especially when using online games and social networking sites. It also covers strategies to guard against viruses, identifying accurate sources of information and avoiding sharing of personal information with untrustworthy sources.

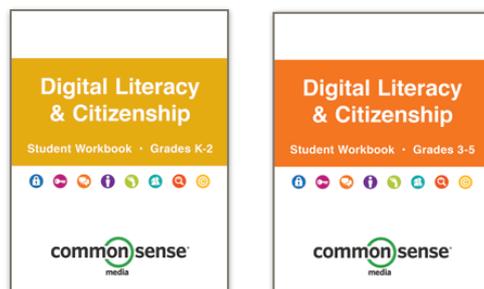
These measures are of paramount importance as they safeguard the wellbeing of children and young people and emphasise the importance and use of new technologies in a positive way, as well as encouraging young people to develop safer online behaviours.

How do we encourage this at IIL?

In the English Primary Section we take Digital Citizenship very seriously. It is mapped throughout our Computing curriculum and is taught to all children in English Primary from Nursery through to Year 6.

Students all have access to the Digital Literacy & Citizenship iBook by Common Sense Media (student edition), and participate in a range of focused role-plays and activities during lesson time. The iBooks we use are available for download from the Apple App Store, at no cost, and include a student edition and a parent/teacher edition.

<https://www.commonsensemedia.org/educators/blog/announcing-our-free-ibooks-textbooks>



What could parents do to help?

If you would like to take a more active role in reinforcing these ideas with your children then please feel free to use the iBooks at home too. You can work through at your own pace, or follow our progress if you prefer.



Finally, some of the broad guidelines we would recommend for Computing use at home are as follows:

- Keep your computer, laptop or tablet in the family room so that you can monitor what your child is accessing.
- Only allow your child to become members of games or sites that are monitored or moderated (a monitored site should identify risks or inappropriate content.)
- Check through the browsing history of your internet search engine regularly.
- Ask your child what they are playing and who they might be talking to.
- Don't sign your child up to social networking sites such as Facebook. There are age restrictions in place many of which start at 13.
- Regularly check your child's mobile phone, ensuring that they are only talking to close friends or family.
- Remind your child to never give out personal information such as: full name, date of birth, address or telephone number.
- Investigate child restrictions on your home computer/tablet and filter inappropriate sites and content. Please contact us if you would like advice on how this can be achieved.

For more tips:

There are numerous websites on Digital Citizenship, here are a few that we use in school:

<http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-and-resources/parents-and-carers/parental-controls>

<http://www.childnet.com>

<http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk>

<http://www.digizen.org/parents/>

<http://www.safetynetkids.org.uk>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

<http://www.netsmartz.org/InternetSafety>