

Back-to-school

making a positive start
to the new school year



For teachers



COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE



Being online

Access and Inclusion

Every child has the right to participate in digital spaces without fear of exclusion.



At school, children from widely diverse backgrounds get to meet. Discuss diversity in class by looking at concrete situations both off- and online.

Learning and Creativity

Online learning is nowadays an essential part of education that helps prepare children to face the challenges of tomorrow.



Invite students to present their own creations in class. Ask them how they would feel if someone else took credit for their work. Discuss copyright with them.

Media and Information Literacy

In today's information society, it is especially important for children to become critical thinkers.



Discuss in class the 8 points illustrated in the IFLA poster on "[How to spot fake news](#)".

Well-being online

Ethics and Empathy

Children best learn about equality, justice, openness to diversity and empathy through examples they see at home and in school.

-  Build empathy. Take a recent news story (about floods, forest fires, drought etc.) and have pupils discuss how the victims must have felt, and if such catastrophes can be prevented.

Health and Well-being

Educate children to maintain a balance between real and virtual, indoor and outdoor activities.

-  Divide students into groups, and have them research and create posters about ergonomics and healthy online practices.

e-Presence & Communications

With broader use of digital technology in education, children need to be more aware of respectful, privacy-conscious interactions.

-  With your students, create a checklist of 10 key netiquette (online etiquette) rules.
-  Have them keep a netiquette log for 2 weeks. Which rules are trickiest to follow?



Rights online

Active Participation

Schools are microcosms of democratic society, where students practice citizenship skills and experience democratic ways of living together.



Get students to talk about their summer activities (camps, workshops, etc.). Build on their experiences to underline the value and fun we get out of active participation.

Rights and Responsibilities

The new school year is an ideal time to talk about the right to learn and express opinions, and the responsibility to make sure the rights of others are respected.



Make a list of the rights and responsibilities students feel they have at school; discuss how these may be different in the online world.

Privacy and Security

The digital platforms children use for schoolwork and leisure should be regularly checked by schools and families to make sure they are safe and adapted to children's needs.



Regularly update filters, firewalls and antivirus software, and take extra care with students' private data.



Talk in class about handling unwanted contacts and content, and poor online behaviour.

Rights online

Consumer Awareness

When equipping children for the new school year, be aware that citizenship includes thinking about carbon footprints and fair-trade norms.

-  Have students choose a meaningful unit of reference (bus ticket or an average hourly wage) and calculate the units required to buy various tech gadgets.

Help your students become digital citizens through their on-and offline experiences at school and in the community.

Other Council of Europe publications on Digital Citizenship Education

- ▶ Educating for a video game culture – A map for teachers and parents (2021)
- ▶ Digital citizenship education - Trainers' Pack (2020)
- ▶ Digital Citizenship Education – Lesson plans for educators available at <https://www.coe.int/en/web/education/new-materials>
- ▶ Digital Citizenship Education Handbook (2019)
- ▶ Bullying: perspectives, practice and insights (2017)
- ▶ Internet Literacy Handbook (2017)

Further information available at:
www.coe.int/education

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