Celebrating World Children's Day

Helping children understand their rights and responsibilities in the real and virtual world

For teachers

📶 Being online

Access and Inclusion

Every child has the right to access the internet, regardless of gender, race, nationality, religion, background or disability. It's up to every adult to help children exercise this right.

📶 With your class, look online for trending topics related to diversity and inclusion.

📶 Discuss what can be done for all children to have opportunities to become digital citizens.

Learning and Creativity

Children have the right to learn to use digital tools wisely to access content, search for information, meet others and share ideas using a range of media formats (text, graphics, orally...).

📶 Create a blog with your students about children's rights, and invite every child in the class to contribute content.

📶 Teach them to use digital tools creatively to publish material online.

Media and Information Literacy

All children should have equal opportunities to learn and become creative.

📶 Perform an online search in class on a trending topic related to online rights. What knowledge and skills do students think they need to critically evaluate and get an objective overview of the topic?

👍 Well-being online

Ethics and Empathy

Children with mental and physical difficulties have the same rights as other children to dignity, self-sufficiency and active participation in on- and offline communities.

👍 Use a recent story about an upsetting incident in your country and discuss with your students how they would feel if that had happened to them.

Health and Well-being

Children have the right to be protected against all forms of physical and mental violence and maltreatment, and any form of exploitation that may jeopardise their health or welfare.

👍 Ask your students to keep a log for a week about their activities and the time they spend on- and offline.

👍 Open a class discussion on healthy technology use and encourage students to discuss their logs.

e-Presence & Communications

Children have the right to be protected from attacks on their well-being and reputation.

👍 Have students conduct an online search on their own name. Any surprises? Would they show the findings about themselves to their parents?

🔒 Rights online

Active Participation

Children have the right to express their views freely, and to actively participate in diverse communities.

🔒 Conduct a class debate on a fun topic (e.g. a new colour for the classroom walls). Get students to promote their favourite solution, and wind up the session with a vote. This will provide a lesson in the power of influence, and in the democratic act of voting.

Rights and Responsibilities

Children need help to understand their rights, and the responsibilities that accompany those rights, in both the physical and online world.

🔒 Have your students design the terms and conditions of an imaginary website. What rights do users have, and how do these impact on their responsibilities?

Privacy and Security

Children have the right to privacy both online and offline.

🔒 Get students to make up a few "strong" passwords and test them on a password-checking website to see how strong they really are.

🔒 What constitutes a strong password? How easily can a password be cracked?

🔒 Rights online

Consumer Awareness

Children have the right to learn how to detect unethical marketing and privacy-invasive practices, and understand that they can be influenced and misled if they take the ads they see on face value.

🔒 Ask students to keep a log for one week of all the products they see advertised and would like to buy.

🔒 Help them analyse the impact of their list of products on the sustainability of the environment.

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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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The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It comprises 47 member states, including all members of the European Union. All Council of Europe member states have signed up to the European Convention on Human Rights, a treaty designed to protect human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The European Court of Human Rights oversees the implementation of the Convention in the member states.

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