Digital Citizenship @ Hillbrook

Students become good citizens of the digital environment, which contributes positively to their learning opportunities in a way that is safe, supportive and inclusive.
Online Safety
Students can go to amazing places but they need to think critically and follow certain rules to remain safe online.

Passwords
Password security is one of the most important skills in online safety. Hillbrook’s Digital Technologies Acceptable Use Agreement makes it clear that password security is the student’s responsibility.

*Did you know that if you get locked out of your iPad you need to reset the device to factory settings and will only be able to access your last backup?

Safety & Social Media
Social networking can be a lot of fun, but it can carry risks, especially for young people. Many social networking sites have age restrictions (usually 13 years) and it is important to understand a site’s terms and conditions of use. There are valid and legal reasons for online rules.

*A really good thing to remember: these are required age limits, not recommendations.

Website Provenance
Anyone can publish on the Internet, so not all sites are equally trustworthy. It is critical to evaluate sites and then decide which ones can be trusted.

*It is very easy to clone a real website and it does not take a skilled developer long to produce a very professional-looking but malicious site.

Digital Ownership
Students explore the legal and ethical dimensions of creating, and also using, original online content.

Copyright & Intellectual Property
Copyright protects the rights of creators so that they receive credit and get paid for their work. Most items on the Internet are copyrighted works. Creative Commons licenses are free, easy-to-use copyright licenses that provide a simple, standardized way to give others permission to share and use work.

*Creative Common’s licenses allow the creator to change the copyright terms from the default ‘all rights reserved’ to conditions of the creator’s choice; they are a type of copyright, not an alternative to it.

Search Engines
The world is at your fingertips if you have Internet access. If you know how to use a good search engine, you don't have to stuff your mind with facts that are useful only when playing Jeopardy or Trivial Pursuit.

*An effective online search yields precise results; no need to scroll through an information dump that doesn’t relate to the desired topic.
Digital Footprint
Students map their digital footprint and consider what it means to ‘live in the moment’ for today’s generation.

Online Identity
Most of us have a growing online profile - a very public profile. While it’s not possible to have a ZERO footprint, the first steps toward reducing a footprint and managing an online identity are not too difficult.

*A digital footprint is all the information online about a person, posted either by that person or by others. The information in it can become public because it can be searched, copied, and passed on so that it plays to a large invisible audience. It can be difficult or impossible to remove, and it therefore becomes a permanent part of a person’s online image.

Staying Connected
Being online is a big part of young people’s lives and there are limitless opportunities for entertainment and interaction. However, a balance is needed between the online world and the offline world.

*In today’s world, everybody should be aware of how big a role digital media (Internet, texting, video games) plays in their life. What are the positive and not-so-positive aspects?

Post, Share, Comment
The Internet should be considered public because ‘private’ information can easily become public if passed on, Posts in many online communities are public by default.

*The Terms of Use on many websites state that you lose rights in whatever you post as soon as you post it. Think before you post.

Online Relationships
Many online spaces increase community engagement through social media, messaging, and sharing of media, information and opinions. Online spaces must be examined objectively to determine which ones foster a positive community.

*The term 'online predator' can be misleading. It is critical to be able to identify forms of inappropriate contact in online spaces.

Internet, Webs and Clouds
Companies collect data online and utilise it to personalise content. It is worth considering their motives. Google Drive, DropBox, iCloud - what is really happening with your data? Is your data really floating above you in a cloud, waiting for you to access it?

*Always check a website’s privacy policy to find out what that site might do with someone’s personal information. If you don’t feel comfortable with the policy, leave the site.
Digital Responsibility

Students consider their responsibility to use technology in a way that doesn’t harm others and to be aware of the impact of technology.

Permission to shoot, snap, record

It is important to learn when and where it is appropriate to snap, shoot and record. Students acknowledge their responsibility to respect the privacy of others as part of Hillbrook’s Digital Technologies Acceptable Use Agreement. They also agree to communicate with others, both inside and outside of school hours and in social situations, in a legally and socially appropriate manner, only taking photos or recording sound or video when others are aware of it and have provided formal consent.

* It’s important to know that even if somebody ‘unposts’ something, it can persist online because information can easily be reposted, copied, and passed around by others.

Cyberbullying

Cyberbullying is the use of digital media tools, such as the Internet and cell phones, to deliberately humiliate and harass others, oftentimes repeatedly. Although anyone can spot bullying behaviour in the real world, it’s much more difficult to detect online. Sometimes an entire social circle will get involved, and then it becomes harder for an individual to disengage from it. In addition, hurtful information posted on the Internet is extremely difficult to remove and millions of people may see it.

*When does inappropriate online behaviour cross the line to Cyberbullying?

Reporting Abusive Content

There are definitely benefits to being able to chat online and message, but there may be scenarios in which someone feels uncomfortable, or they may encounter inappropriate behaviour on the Internet. Who can they talk to? When and where should it be reported?

*Most social media sites contain clear directions about how to report violations.

Teacher’s Guide:

The Digital Citizenship course, in Online @ Hillbrook, is designed to empower students to think critically, behave safely and participate responsibly in the digital world. Locate materials, including videos, lesson plans and factsheets