

Social Media

Did you know that social media doesn't refer just to the popular apps and sites like Instagram, Snapchat or Facebook? Social media is such a broad term it even includes when two or more users can connect through a digital platform. Ever played a game and chatted with friends using the gaming console? That's considered social media. Social media is a common feature on most websites. Look at how websites allow users to post a comment, it's usually at the end of the page.

Social media can be a great tool in the right hands! It allows us to connect with friends that don't live locally or keep an eye on our favorite celebrities and see what they are up to. Using this tool for school (because we are at school after all!) has some great advantages to when and where you complete your work.

Safety measures is about knowing what information to keep to yourself and what to share. It's more than giving someone your password (shame on you if you have!). It includes opening an unknown file which could contain a virus, sharing information without permission or claim a photo or document was yours when it wasn't. Once you publicly post something, it's hard to retract that information.

We have social rules when we talk and interact with people in person and the same applies when collaborating online. There are certain social rules we expect everyone, regardless of age, to follow. Something as simple as WRITING IN CAPS is disrespectful because it's a method used to yell at people. Or deleting someone's work because you felt like it, that's not cool. Using sarcasm in a written comment is really difficult to detect and can cause confusion quickly. Social contexts change all the time - How you text your friend is different to how you might speak to your grandmother!

When working collaboratively on projects it is important that everyone in your team follows those rules. Sometimes people don't follow these rules and that's when things get messy. If you are caught in a situation where people aren't following those rules (would you put up with a friend constantly speaking into a megaphone, or would you tell them to stop?) speak to someone you can trust. It's ok to ask for help and speak up, what's not ok is to allow people to think that behavior is totally acceptable by not saying anything. The only way to stamp out bad behavior is to call people on it.

What safety measures are important to you when working online? What type of social behavior do you expect from everyone? When and how will these behaviors change?

