



## Am I a Good Digital Citizen? Some Important Considerations

A good digital citizen reflects a number of important attributes, attitudes and mindful behaviour. This can seem like unfamiliar territory when put into practice at a school. It can also raise some very important questions along the way.

In consultation with teachers, Netsafe has produced this definition of a digital citizen which draws upon the Key Competencies and Values of the New Zealand Curriculum:

A digital citizen:

- is a confident and capable user of ICT
- uses technologies to participate in educational, cultural, and economic activities
- uses and develops critical thinking skills in cyberspace
- is literate in the language, symbols, and texts of digital technologies
- is aware of ICT challenges and can manage them effectively
- uses ICT to relate to others in positive, meaningful ways
- demonstrates honesty and integrity and ethical behaviour
- in their use of ICT
- respects the concepts of privacy and freedom of speech in a digital world
- contributes and actively promotes the values of digital citizenship.<sup>1</sup>

### Digital Citizenship in schools – what does it mean, what does it look like, some questions to consider:

A digital citizen:	What does this mean? What does this look like?	Questions to consider:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• is a confident and capable user of ICT</li> </ul>	<p>I am able to use Information, Communication, and Technology (ICT) in ways that support common and meaningful functions.</p> <p>I can use the technology that is relevant within my school environment, eg; email, GAFE, Microsoft365</p> <p>I have the confidence to know what I can do, but also understand my limits.</p>	<p>What are the most common and basic ways ICT is used at school?</p> <p>Are there any obstacles that prevent me from accessing ICT in anyway?</p> <p>What kind of support is available should I not feel capable or confident?</p> <p>Can I put myself forward as support for someone else?</p>

<sup>1</sup> [What is digital citizenship](http://www.mylgp.org.nz/about/what-is-digital-citizenship/) – retrieved from <http://www.mylgp.org.nz/about/what-is-digital-citizenship/>

<b>A digital citizen:</b>	<b>What does this mean? What does this look like?</b>	<b>Questions to consider:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>uses technologies to participate in educational, cultural, and economic activities.</li> </ul>	<p>I am able to use technology to participate in online and digital spaces. For example, this may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>using a camera to capture students' work and share within the school community, or</li> <li>it may mean that I am writing a blog with reflections on a school event.</li> </ul>	<p>What are some examples of how you participate in digital spaces using technology at home? (eg Facebook, Twitter)</p> <p>What is the difference between being a consumer and a participant? How do I know?</p> <p>What are some of the risks associated with economic activities online? (eg: Banking. How do I know it's safe?)</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>uses and develops critical thinking skills in cyberspace</li> </ul>	<p>I am able to identify and interact with reliable and trustworthy websites.</p> <p>I understand how websites are indexed and ranked by commonly used search engines.</p>	<p>What criteria do you already use to evaluate, whether it be formal (rubric) or informal (scanning the page for important or relevant features)?</p> <p>Do you have guidelines that are shared between classroom, library and other learning spaces?</p> <p>Does everyone agree on common criteria?</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>is literate in the language, symbols, and texts of digital technologies</li> </ul>	<p>I am able to effectively communicate across a variety of media including email, text and social media.</p> <p>I am aware of what type of language is appropriate for a particular media and context eg when I should text and when I should email, depending on recipient etc)</p>	<p>What are the expectations between staff and students when communicating using these tools?</p> <p>Are there expectations around social media use at school?</p> <p>How do I model best practice for my students?</p>

<b>A digital citizen:</b>	<b>What does this mean? What does this look like?</b>	<b>Questions to consider:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>is aware of ICT challenges and can manage them effectively</li> </ul>	<p>I am able to problem solve when I encounter a technical issue with ICT. If I am unable to do this, I know who I can turn to for support and when that is appropriate.</p>	<p>What are some common technical issues relevant to my work situation that I can solve on my own? Have I identified who I can seek out for support?</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>uses ICT to relate to others in positive, meaningful ways</li> </ul>	<p>I am able to use ICT, from social media to web tools in constructive, helpful, and appropriate ways.</p>	<p>How do I provide appropriate and effective feedback on someone’s blog or similar? Are there guidelines available for staff in sharing content in social media?</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>demonstrates honesty, integrity and ethical behaviour in their use of ICT</li> </ul>	<p>I respect the intellectual property rights of content creators, whether it from colleagues with teaching resources or material I come across online. I am aware of how to appropriately access and where necessary, obtain permission and/or cite the owner of the content.</p>	<p>Does my school have the appropriate licences for print, music, and video? Does my school have a clear policy on sharing resources outside of school? What happens to the resources I create once I leave my school?</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>respects the concepts of privacy and freedom of speech in a digital world</li> </ul>	<p>It is important to obtain permission from people before I post any photos, video, or information including or about them. I also realise that almost anyone can post their feelings and viewpoints online. At times, the information shared will be inaccurate, false, or hurtful. I will deliberately share and model appropriate responses to these incidents.</p>	<p>Am I being too casual in taking photos and sharing them without permission? Have I spoken to parents and other members of the community about photos and the use of media at school? What ways are staff encouraged to share their ideas within the community? (ie school intranet, blog, )</p>

<b>A digital citizen:</b>	<b>What does this mean? What does this look like?</b>	<b>Questions to consider:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>contributes and actively promotes the values of digital citizenship</li> </ul>	<p>I will make regular references to the digital citizenship agreement with my staff and members of the community.</p> <p>I will clarify and openly discuss the concept of digital citizenship with all members of the community. I will always be mindful when I am using technology.</p>	<p>How do you present, and regularly discuss and demonstrate digital citizenship concepts at your school?</p> <p>Are there clear and consistent links between digital citizenship and school values?</p> <p>How do you recognise excellence in modelling digital citizenship?</p>