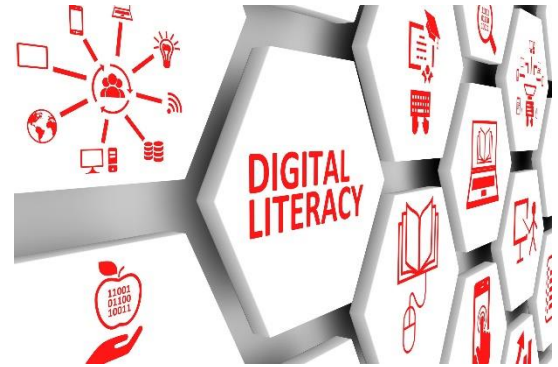# Digitally Literate

Digital Literacy is the skill set needed to comprehend, communicate and curate content through digital means. It is a skill that requires practice and attention to detail to improve upon.

Vision: "To build lifelong learners who can demonstrate 21st century skills for a productive global citizenship".

Digitally Literate

When we look at our children, we imagine a shining future where they use technology as seamlessly as Iron Man and J.A.R.V.I.S to integrate their thoughts with their world. As we dream of our children's future, we need to remember the need to explicitly teach and model digital literacy, just like we do with traditional literacy. Perfecting these essential skills mean our children will be able to access rich information and to connect productively with the world around them.

Digital Literacy is the skill set needed to comprehend, communicate and curate content through digital means. It is a skill that requires practice and attention to detail to improve upon. Here are the Four Principles of Digital Literacy with strategies and resources a parent, teacher, or Principal can use to proactively boost student development.

Comprehension

This is the ability to find reliable sources of digital information. It is also the ability to identify unreliable sources of information and to infer the underlying objectives of paid advertisements, disinformation and sponsored content. This year's Safer Internet Day (2021) centred around teachers, parents and leaders delivering age appropriate activities that helped students as individuals, classes or across their school develop their comprehension skills. We wade through fake news, disinformation and opinions being presented as facts in our daily lives. Therefore, it is important that students learn how to critically analyse sources before sending them off

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on the yearly "Climate Change" research project. My advice is that these activities are best delivered over a course of at least several days to encourage students to think critically about digital information as a habit.

Social Factors

Apps such as Flipgrid, Jamboard and iMovie have become regular learning partners in Primary and Secondary classrooms alike, prompting our students to learn how to create their own content to an established audience to convey the message they want, and document their own ideas and achievements. Peer learning and recognition is a powerful tool that has been harnessed by educators long before the term "selfie" existed. It is crucial that everyone understands the impact of choosing the right application at the right time. **The social factor of learning should spotlight learning, and never distract from the learning itself**. Learning safe practices and habits to curate and digest social media content goes into the realms of Digital Citizenship, which is for another time, however Common Sense Media is my go to website that has a wealth of advice and information about the social impact of the digital world on children and young adults.

With time, and explicit teaching of Digital Literacy at all stages in education, the conversation above will hopefully become a thing of the past as we all become digitally literate. These skills will always need to be explicitly taught to children in a place where they can explore and test their own boundaries. Like any other teaching, human interaction when teaching Digital Literacy is so important. Please don't entrust or assume your children understand how to communicate on a self-moderated platform, just because they are "Digital Natives". They will quickly be starring in their own version of Lord of the Flies, with the bonus of creating an unintended digital footprint of their mistakes.

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