November 2023

Helping schools and families keep children safe online

Online Safety Supports for Primary Schools and Parents/Guardians

Co-funded by the European Union

An Roinn Oideachais
Department of Education

About Webwise

Supporting the Digital Strategy for Schools, there is a wide range of training material available through the Webwise Internet Safety Programme to support teachers, students, and parents in addressing online safety. The Webwise Programme is an important educational support in this area. Functioning under the umbrella of the Oide Technology in Education division, Webwise is part of the new support service for teachers and school leaders, Oide. Funded by the Department of Education and the European Commission, webwise.ie promotes safer, better internet use through awareness-raising and education initiatives targeting teachers, children, young people, and parents.

Webwise develops and disseminates resources that help teachers integrate digital citizenship and online safety into teaching and learning in their schools. Webwise also provides information, advice, and tools to parents to support their engagement in their children's online lives. With the help of the Webwise Youth Advisory Panel, Webwise develops youth-oriented awareness raising resources and training programmes that promote digital citizenship and address topics such as online wellbeing, cyberbullying and more.

National and European Policy

The work of Webwise aligns to the pillar 3 of the Digital Strategy for Schools, supports the Cineáltas: Action Plan on Bullying and aligns to the 3 pillars of the European Better Internet for Kids+ Strategy;

1. A safe digital environment to protect children from harmful and illegal online content.
2. Empower children in the digital world and give them the necessary skills to make safe choices and express themselves online.
3. Improve children's active participation, with more child-led activities to foster innovative and creative digital experiences.

SUPPORTS FOR PARENTS

Research shows parents are the main source of help when something bothering or upsetting happens online to the children and parents are the primary educators of their children. As children are spending an increasing amount of time online at home it is vital to educate and support parents around this in order to reinforce appropriate behaviour online. The following supports are available for parents/guardians:

Webwise Parents Hub

The Webwise Parents Hub provides guidance and practical information for parents on key issues such as the use of technology in the home, parental controls, screen time, emerging technologies, respectful online communication, cyberbullying, sexting and image sharing and how to engage positively in their children's online lives. Through videos, experts offer advice on everything from talking to your child about sexting to modelling good behaviour. Information on where to get additional help and support in dealing with illegal material or harmful use of the internet is also readily available on the Hub.
www.webwise.ie/parents/

#TalkListenLearn

Having regular open conversations is one of the most effective ways of supporting your child online. To help support families to have an open discussion about safe internet use, Webwise have developed the #TalkListenLearn topic generator. The topic generator encourages families to sit down, have an open discussion about safe internet use using the questions on the website.
talklistenlearn.webwise.ie/

Internet Safety Talks for Parents

In the area of parental collaboration, there are free, scripted Internet Safety Talk for Parents presentations that can be used by primary schools who may wish to host parent internet safety evenings and promote collaboration with parents regarding online safety for children and young people. The talks include information on popular apps and social media and covers key topics such as social networking, cyber-bullying, image sharing, sexting, and features expert advice and support.

Supports for Parents

NATIONAL PARENTS COUNCIL PRIMARY

Internet Safety Talks for Parents

This session aims to give you information and skills to be able to engage in your children's online lives. It covers the benefits and risks of the internet and provides hints and tips for parents; helping children be effective, responsible and safer Internet users. These include open communication and setting rules and boundaries with children, which are important aspects of keeping them safe online, as well as in every other aspect of their lives. This session also explores cyber-bullying and how we can help our children learn how to deal with cyber-bullying situations. Our Online Internet Safety session is available on the NPC website www.npc.ie.

Helpline for Parents

If you have a query on any aspect of your child's primary or early year's education please contact the Helpline.

The Helpline is a confidential service.
The Helpline can be contacted by telephone Monday to Friday 10am - 4pm
Tel: 01 8874477, email: helpline@npc.ie and webchat.

Helpline Officers will be available to help you with any issue you may have regarding your child's primary or early years' education.

Online Safety Tips for Parents

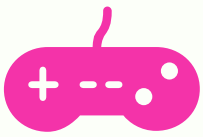
HAVE THE CHAT
Have regular conversations with your child on the important things to look out for online and potential dangers.

AGREE RULES
Agree on a clear set of rules in your home about internet use and around screentime. Remember the importance of a healthy balance!

ASKING FOR HELP
Reassure your child that they should always come talk to you if something happens online.

TAKE A CLOSER LOOK
Not all information online is correct. Encourage your child to critically evaluate information they come across online.

LEAD BY EXAMPLE
Do as you say! Modelling behaviour is the most powerful way you can influence your child's behaviour!



JOIN IN!
The internet is a great resource for children! Play your child's favourite computer game and discover the online world together.

Visit webwise.ie/parents for advice, explainer guides to apps, talking points and more

Online Safety Supports for Primary Schools

AUP DEVELOPER TOOL

Create a customised Acceptable Use Policy using the Webwise AUP Developer tool. Visit webwise.ie.aup-2 for guidelines, sample AUPs, FAQs and to access the free tool.

FREE ONLINE SAFETY COURSES

Explore the topic of cyberbullying via a new 2 hours, online self-directed course. Understanding, Responding and Preventing Cyberbullying is now available to access for free via webwise.ie/cyberbullying-guidance/

FREE ONLINE SAFETY RESOURCES

Ranging from 1st-6th class, resources explore topics such as privacy, safe communication, cyberbullying and digital media literacy. Order for free here: webwise.ie/teachers/resources/

WEBWISE PARENTS HUB

Introduce parents to the webwise.ie/parents hub or host an online safety evening for parents using the scripted Webwise Parents talks.

Supports for Primary Schools

Developing Robust Policy

All schools are expected to have an Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) in place that sets rights, privileges, responsibilities and sanctions associated with the use of the internet for school purposes including the use of smart phones and personal devices. The Policy is drawn up by school leaders, teachers and management and generally in consultation with parents and students. This process of consultation is consistent with the principles of the Education (Student and Parent Charter) Bill. Supports for schools on how to draft, develop and review this policy are available on webwise.ie. The need to consult with parents and students will be underpinned in law once the Education (Student and Parent Charter) Bill is enacted.

Acceptable Use Policy Guidance and Generator Tool are available to access here: www.webwise.ie/aup-2/

Building Teacher Capacity

Online Safety Series for Schools

A series of talks featuring experts in the area of digital technology, SPHE, academics and legal expertise explore topics such as online bullying, image sharing, false information online and introducing online safety to younger classes are available to view here: webwise.ie/trending/online-safety-in-the-classroom-webinars-for-primary-and-post-primary-teachers/

Guidance Hub for Teachers

The Cyberbullying Guidance for Teachers Information Hub has been created by Webwise to provide guidance to teachers and school leaders on the issue of cyberbullying, creating an anti-cyberbullying culture and promoting student's wellbeing including online wellbeing. It also supports teachers and school leaders participating in the online cyberbullying courses developed by Oide Technology in Education with Webwise.

Online Courses for Educators

Understanding, Preventing and Responding to Cyberbullying
This new online cyberbullying course helps to inform teachers and school leaders about cyberbullying and a school's role in relation to creating an anti-cyberbullying culture and promoting student wellbeing including online wellbeing. Topics explored include; legal framework (Coco's Law and other relevant legislation, engaging parents, addressing incidents, prevention and awareness, etc.)

An Introduction to Digital Citizenship Education (Primary – Summer Course)
This new and engaging online course will help teachers to understand digital citizenship and how to teach and model digital citizenship in the classroom. Topics explored include online wellbeing, news and information literacy, privacy, communication, ethics, empathy and more.

Find out more here: www.oidetechnologyineducation.ie/onlinecourses/

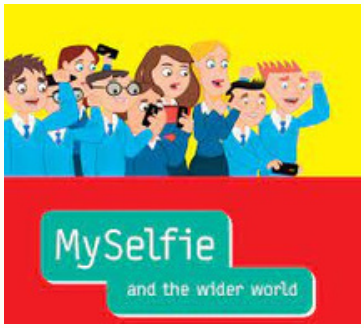
Online Safety Lessons and Talks

HTML HEROES (1ST - 4TH CLASS)

Teach pupils the importance of digital citizenship and online safety with the help of the HTML Heroes! Lessons explore themes such as being safe online, finding reliable information, privacy, chatting, playing and learning online. Resources for 1st-2nd class and 3rd-4th class.

MYSELFIE AND THE WIDER WORLD

This Primary Anti-Cyber Bullying Teachers' Handbook is an SPHE resource developed to engage 5th and 6th class primary school students on the topic of cyberbullying.



ALL ABOARD FOR DIGITOWN

A learning path for 9 -12 year olds to become smart digital citizens. Help pupils explore the concept of digital citizenship across 10 themes in the DigiTown activity book.

Available at webwise.ie/teachers/resources

Online Safety Lessons and Talks

BE KIND ONLINE

Part of the Garda Schools Programme Be Kind Online, is designed to enable 3rd and 4th class pupils to understand what cyberbullying is, how it can hurt someone and how it can be prevented

SCRIPTED ONLINE SAFETY TALKS

Webwise has developed a series of scripted talks for use with 1st and 2nd class, 3rd and 4th class, and 5th and 6th class. Primary Scripted Talks are available to access here: webwise.ie/saferinternetday/sid-presentations/#sidprimarypresentations

Available at webwise.ie/teachers/resources

webwise.ie

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