

# facebook

## for Educators

### **Teaching Students to be Good Citizens in the Digital World**

Learning how to become a responsible digital citizen isn't just a school related issue. In our increasingly 'flat world' developing digital illiteracies, such as learning what it means to be a good digital citizen, will be a key to success in the 21st Century workplace.

It's important that students begin to develop and refine their online communication skills as soon as possible. There are many ways to define "digital citizenship", but we feel that it comes down to three main components:

1. Conducting yourself in a civil manner in the online world just like you would be expected to behave in offline world. Universal rules of social conduct apply in both environments.
2. Behaving responsibly and compassionately with your online actions.
3. Watching out for each other in your online community much like you would in your 'real world' neighborhood. By doing so, you are promoting a healthy and safe online community.

In our discussions with educators, we have found that teachers who have been successful in developing a culture of good digital citizenship have done so by creating classroom scenarios where they can have ongoing discussions regarding what is and isn't appropriate online behavior with their students.

### **Facebook Social Reporting Tools**

Perhaps one of the most important ways that students can be good digital citizens is by reporting bullying, abusive or inappropriate comments. If the abuse is happening in a school-related Facebook Group or on a Facebook Page, students should be encouraged to immediately inform their parents, teacher or principal.

It's also important to remember that in order for Facebook to assist you on digital citizenship issues, you have to report abuse to them as soon as it happens. You can learn more about social reporting tools in the Facebook Safety Center (<http://www.facebook.com/safety>).

## **How Educators Can Combat Cyberbullying**

Good digital citizenship means thinking about the effects on others before posting content or sending messages. It also means standing up for anyone they may see being targeted by bullies—online or off. This may be difficult for students. But with teaching and encouragement, we believe young people can rise to the challenge.

Recent media attention to cyberbullying (which includes harassment via texts, email, and social media) sometimes implies that bullying is new. As you know, it's not. Bullying has long been a problem.

In today's world, online bullying is often a reflection of what's going on offline. Because online bullying can happen faster and travel farther, it requires quick acts of good online citizenship from educators and from students themselves to prevent—or at least reduce—the problem.

### **Teaching Digital Responsibility**

As educators and parents, you can make clear to students that what they post online is traceable; it is not as anonymous as they might think.

In the event that legal action is taken, online services and Internet Service Providers can be required to provide identity information to the proper authorities. These online traces can be used as evidence against students if they are involved in cyberbullying.

We want to emphasize the need for educators to talk with their students about appropriate online behavior, and to take rapid action to head off instances of bullying online, just as they would if they saw inappropriate behavior in the cafeteria or school hallways. If it takes place on Facebook, you can report it. If physical threats are made, you should immediately notify appropriate law enforcement agencies.

Responsible digital citizenship is no different than the responsibility that we have offline to be good citizens and protect the welfare of our students when emotional or physical harm is being inflicted.

## Digital Citizenship Resources

Facebook Safety	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/fbsafety">http://www.facebook.com/fbsafety</a>
StopBullying.Gov	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/StopBullying.Gov">http://www.facebook.com/StopBullying.Gov</a>
No Name Calling Week	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/nonamecallingweek">http://www.facebook.com/nonamecallingweek</a>
Beat Bullying (UK)	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/Beatbullying">http://www.facebook.com/Beatbullying</a>
GLSEN	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/GLSEN">http://www.facebook.com/GLSEN</a>
BullyBust	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/upstander">http://www.facebook.com/upstander</a>
BullyingUK	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/BullyingUK">http://www.facebook.com/BullyingUK</a>
Cyberbullying Research Center	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/cyberbullyingresearch">http://www.facebook.com/cyberbullyingresearch</a>
Bullying Canada	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/BullyingCanada.ca">http://www.facebook.com/BullyingCanada.ca</a>
The Trevor Project	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/TheTrevorProject">http://www.facebook.com/TheTrevorProject</a>



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