

Developing Digital Citizenship

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Concerns for Educators

- **Social networking:** children and young people live their lives using instant messaging and online spaces e.g. Whats App, Instagram, Skype, Snapchat, Twitter.
- **Sexting:** posting sexually provocative self-images online or sending images using mobile technologies and SNS e.g. Snapchat.
- **Cyberbullying:** children, young people, teachers and professionals working with young people.

Cyberbullying

“Willful and repeated harm inflicted through the use of computers, cell phones, and other electronic devices”

Hinduja, S. & Patchin, J.W. (2009); Hinduja, S. & Patchin, J.W. (2006).

Prevention

- Use Strong Passwords
- Logout from SNS when not using
- Use privacy controls
- Avoid unidentified messages
- Pause before you post images or text
- “Google” yourself

Concerns for Educators

- **Online solicitation or grooming:** Young people reported an increase in online harassment, especially among females with name calling, exclusion, gossip and teasing. Solicitations included requests for sexual pictures. Grooming online happened more quickly online with trust being established quickly and less inhibition being demonstrated by young people.

Crimes against Children Research Center (CCRC) New Hampshire, USA (2005, 2010 and 2014)

- **Accessing problematic materials online:** 1 in 4 young people reported an unwanted exposure to sexual material online, while surfing the Internet, opening an email or clicking on a link in an email.

Reference CCRC (2014)

Concerns for Educators

- **Problematic opportunities through the Internet and mobile phone technology:** *The GSMA and the Mobile Society Research Institute, NTT DOCOMO Inc. Japan (2014). Children's use of mobile phones: a special report.*

Surveys in seven European countries and Japan:

- 71% of children surveyed who used mobile phones accessed the internet on their device.
- 81% of children who accessed the mobile internet used social networking sites.
- 10% of European children and 29% of Japanese children who used mobile phones went without eating or sleeping due to time spent on the internet.
- 80% of children aged 13 or older who used mobile phones could block messages and nearly 70% could erase their Internet history.

The Role for Educators in Developing Digital Citizenship

A definition of Digital Citizenship:

“The skills, knowledge, and values required to be an effective, ethical and safe user of ICT.”

Netsafe, New Zealand.

Today there are over six billion mobile phone subscriptions worldwide and for every one person who accesses the internet from a computer two do so from a mobile device.

UNESCO Policy Guidelines for Mobile Learning.

Mobile Technologies

UNESCO Policy recommendations:

- **Promote digital citizenship**
- **Adopt responsible use policies (RUPs)**
- **Articulate strategies to balance online and offline interaction:** increase student awareness about using mobile devices safely, avoid over use and Internet addiction, and encourage productive or healthy screen time
- **Stay updated on potential health risks associated with mobile technologies**

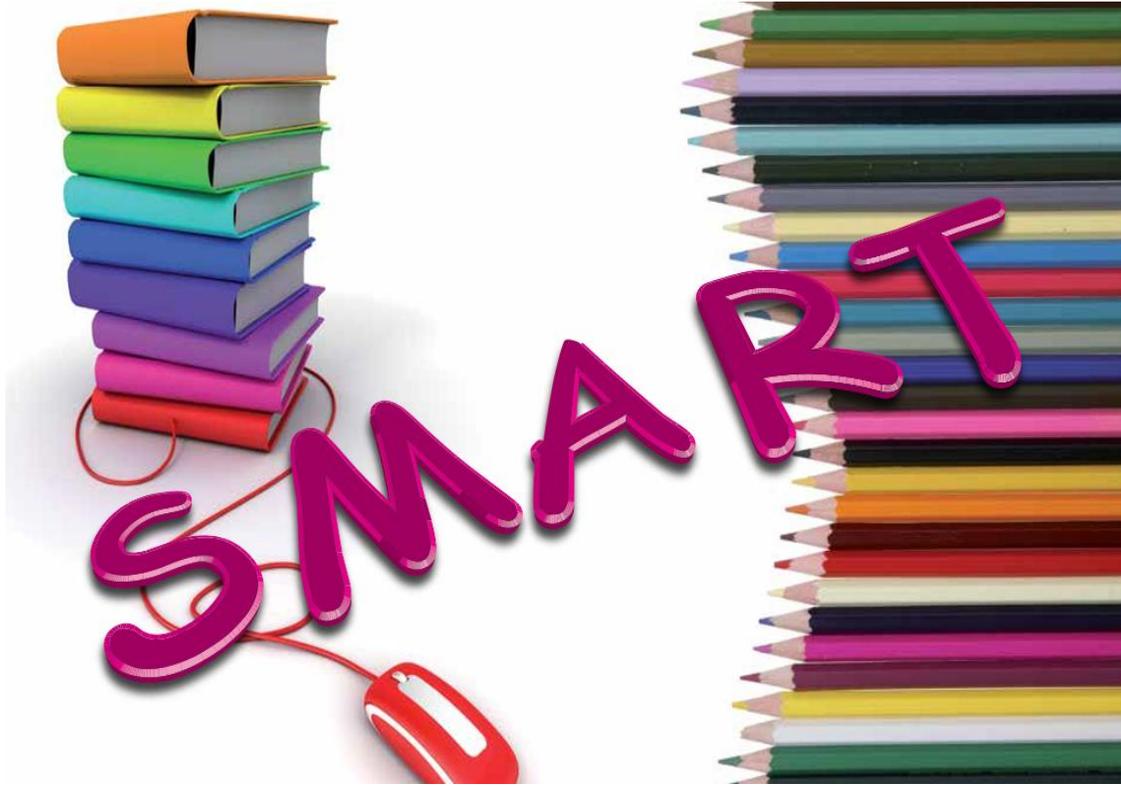
UNESCO Policy Guidelines for Mobile Learning. Retrieved from <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0021/002196/219641E.pdf>

The Role for Educators

“Because mobile devices have become such an essential component of modern life, teachers need to initiate conversations with students, not only about how to use mobile technologies for learning but how to use them safely.”

Mobile Learning for Teachers <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0021/002164/216452E.pdf>

The SMART Rules for Children and Young People



Enjoy the Internet and keep yourself safe using the SMART Rules:

S = Set your limits

M = Meeting online friends offline

A = Accepting invitations/ friendships

R = React

T = Tell someone

S = Set your limits:

- Take care of your privacy and use privacy settings.
- Think twice before you post anything online.
- Be critical about online information and double check the information from reliable sources.

M = Meeting online friends offline:

- Think twice before meeting online friends offline.
- If you must meet your parent, guardian or caregiver should go with you.

A = Accepting invitations or friendships:

- Be careful what information you share
- Decline invitations you are not sure about.

R = React:

- If something or someone bothers you talk about it with your parent, guardian, caregiver or someone you trust.
- Ignore bad behaviour and leave sites with inappropriate content.
- Block anyone who you feel threatened by and save the information if you can (screenshot or copy) so you can show it to your parent, guardian, caregiver or someone you trust.
- If you have been tricked or pressured into sending inappropriate images always tell your parent, guardian, caregiver or someone you trust.

T = Tell someone about your concerns:

- Tell your parent, guardian or caregiver.
- Report harmful or inappropriate content or activities on web sites.