

## **Expectations for Communicating with Peers Online**

With a pivot in providing learning opportunities for students outside of the classroom, it is important that students learn what is expected and what is not expected in being a digital citizen when interacting online with or without the presence of an educator. The Ministry of Education has made adaptations for our School District to include online cloud-based tools into our teaching methods to keep students connected and moving forward with their learning. The following document outlines how students conduct themselves as digital citizens when communicating with their peers.

### **What is a Digital Citizen?**

A student understands the risks and benefits of developing online relationships and uses technology to communicate, connect, share, and collaborates with others effectively and respectfully in digital environments.

### **What are the Expectations of Learners as Digital Citizens?**

#### ***Internet Safety, Privacy, and Security***

A student stays safe on the Internet by employing strategies such as distinguishing between inappropriate contact and positive connections

A student protects their privacy, respects the privacy of others and understands not to reveal private information to a person they know only online.

#### ***Relationships and Technology Mediated Communication and Collaboration***

A student understands the risks and benefits of developing online relationships and uses technology to communicate, connect, share, and collaborates with others effectively and respectfully in digital environments.

Students need to do the following:

- Demonstrate responsibility and respectfulness in their online communications and communities.
- Be aware of the benefits of online communication and able to handle situations of online behavior that may make the student uncomfortable.
- Can participate responsibly in online networks that foster a positive community.

## ***Digital Footprint and Reputation***

A digitally literate person is aware that their activities on the Internet leave a permanent "digital footprint" or "trail" and behaves accordingly.

The student:

- Is aware that they have a digital footprint and that this information can be searched, copied, and passed on, and that they can take some control based on what they post online.
- Understands the benefits of sharing information online and the potential risks of sharing inappropriate information.
- Understands that everything they or anyone else posts about them online becomes part of a public online presence known as a digital footprint.
- Understands their responsibility to protect the privacy of others when posting information about them online.

## **What behaviors are not expected of students?**

### ***Cyber bullying***

The District Code of Student Conduct states: To create a comfortable, safe learning environment for students and staff, no student will engage in activities that lead to or result in assault, threats, bullying, extortion, harassment, sexual harassment, or intimidation of any person while using on school property or under the school's jurisdiction including online learning tools.

Any student known to have engaged in, organized and/or encouraged any abusive behavior will be reported to the parent/guardian and, depending on the severity or the repetitive nature of the abusive behavior, may be reported to the RCMP and/or the Student Conduct Review Committee.

### **What does cyber bullying look like?**

A student can recognize cyber bullying from the following behavior:

- Abusive, demeaning, hateful or insulting towards others
- Threatening, teasing, bullying, intimidating towards others
- Incites harmful behavior towards others
- Discriminates or harasses based on race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, disability
- Intentionally ignoring or excluding someone
- Creating rumors
- Creates a poisonous environment or disruption in the school learning environment

## **How do you deal with cyber bullying?**

<b>Be assertive</b>	Speak up
<b>Confront the person</b>	Ask them to stop
<b>Report</b>	Let a staff member know in person. If not go through online communication or phone the school
<b>Witnessing-</b>	Speak up for the victim and report the incident to staff

*You can also report cyber-bullying online through the [ERASE BC](#) program through the following:*

## **What will happen if you are accused of harassment/cyber-bullying?**

1. Incident investigated.
2. Discussion about the incident. This could lead to conflict resolution or problem solving.
3. Written assignment with parental signature.
4. Informal and formal suspensions.
5. School discipline following District/School Student Codes of Conduct.
6. Repeat incidents could result in Student Conduct Review Committee and/or the RCMP

**The document was created from the following resources:**

[B.C. Digital Literacy Framework](#)

[Harassment Brochure from PGSS SD 57](#)

[ERASE](#) Government of British Columbia Website

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*Created by Trevor Hood*

*thood@sd57.bc.ca*