



Dear Parent/ Guardian:

We recognize our students are facing increasing challenges and pressure from social media and the Internet. While we are aware there are many positives associated with these technologies, we also acknowledge that sometimes they may be used inappropriately. Great strides in educating our students about Internet and social media safety have been made in recent years, but we believe we can and should do even more.

With the goal of developing both an immediate and a long-term strategy to help our teachers better inform our students about the use of these technologies, an Internet and Social Media Safety (ISMS) Committee of Newfoundland and Labrador English School District personnel has been established.

The committee has recommended compulsory resources which have been divided into three categories each for Grade 1 to 3, Grade 4 to 6, and Grade 7 to 12. These categories are derived from the Department of Education *Safe and Caring Schools Policy, 2013* and the elements of 'Digital Citizenship.' The recommended resources will assist teachers in completing instruction on these topics.


We do recognize that the vast majority of schools are using an educational program and are having discussions on these topics. These efforts can be expected to continue. The District believes the more information we provide our students, the better prepared they are to face the challenges ahead. To ensure they are relevant to the latest in Internet and social media trends and issues, all lessons will be updated annually and new materials for each grade category will be provided to schools.

We encourage you to review the resources that will be used to educate yourself on matters of social media and Internet safety and to engage in discussions at home about how students can and do engage on the Internet.

Should you have any questions, concerns or suggestions on this matter please discuss them with your school's principal or classroom teacher.

Thank you for your continued efforts as we strive to prepare our students for the ever-evolving world of the Internet, and social media in particular.

Regards,


Lucy Warren

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