



It takes more than a village

Ever heard of the phrase, "It takes a village to raise a child"? Many people care and work together to help us grow up in a safe and healthy environment.

With greater use of technology and the Internet, the risks and opportunities that we face will continue to change. According to a 2018 Global DQ Index Report, children in Singapore spend about 35 hours a week on their screens – three hours more than the worldwide average.

Let's look at how you can enjoy and stay safe in the digital world, with the help of your teachers, the police, and social service agencies.

Staying safe in cyberspace

You may have read about or even know of someone whose Instagram or TikTok account has been hacked, or you may have received invitations or messages from someone who impersonated your friend. One way criminals and scammers target young persons on the Internet is through identity theft. While there are strict laws and harsh penalties in place to deter cyber criminals, you can also actively take steps to better protect yourself:

- You can avoid falling victim to cyber criminals by becoming more aware of how they operate. Scan and watch these Crimewatch episodes to find out more.
- You can learn tips provided by the Media Literacy Council by scanning the QR code here. For instance, it is smarter to switch our social media settings from Public to Private. And while it may seem like everyone else is posting about their private lives online, what if their personal texts, photos and videos are shared or leaked?
- You can also find out more about what to do and what not to do to stay safe on the Internet via the National Crime Prevention Council's website here.



Providing support for cyber bullying victims

Whether we mean it or not, some children and adults hide behind digital screens and type hurtful comments or spread lies about others. A survey conducted by online market research firm Milieu Insight this year found that 63 per cent of children aged 13 to 16 had experienced cyber bullying before. We should be kind in the ways we interact with each other online. And if you are a victim of cyber bullying, you should not have to suffer in silence:

- The National Council of Social Service started Help123 in 2017 as a one-stop youth cyber wellness community support platform. Currently managed by TOUCH Community Services with support from Singtel, the platform allows you to seek help from trained counsellors through web chat, phone or e-mail. The people around you can even use the portal for information and advice developed by experts from TOUCH Community Services. Scan here to visit the portal.



Equipping you with digital tools and skills

Schools had to shift to full home-based learning from April 8 to May 4 last year to curb the spread of Covid-19. To ensure that learning continued during that period, you and your family had to quickly change your routines, while teachers had to learn how to teach their students remotely. Here are some of the initiatives taken to support full home-based learning:

- Lessons continued with the use of the online Singapore Student Learning Space (SLS), or via video conferencing where teachers and students could interact 'live' with one another, and teachers could look after their students' well-being.
- The Ministry of Education had announced in 2020 that as part of the National Digital Literacy Programme, every secondary student will be able to look forward to having their own personal learning device by the end of 2021.

ACTIVITY

How has technology helped you learn? Write down some features you like best about the digital tools you encounter in school.

About the UNCRC

The treaty came into force in 1990, and Singapore acceded to it in 1995.

The UNCRC's 54 articles set out the rights that children are entitled to. They are generally based on the following four core principles:

1. Non-discrimination;
2. Best interest of the child;
3. Right to life, survival and development;
4. Respect for the views of the child

As of today, 196 countries are party to the UNCRC – this makes it the most widely-ratified human rights treaty in the world.



Scan this QR code to share your thoughts about these UNCRC inserts!