

What is it?

A **digital citizen** refers to a person utilising information, communication and technology (ICT) in order to engage in society, politics and government. Digital citizens are those who use the Internet regularly and effectively.

Being a **good** digital citizen means to demonstrate and practice **safe, responsible, and legal** use of technology. Being an **excellent** digital citizen takes this a step further through seeking to use ICT to improve themselves AND to make the world around them a better place.

A few basics

1. **The Golden Rule - Treat others the way you want to be treated.**
This is probably one piece of digital etiquette advice that is most frequently not observed. Keep your comments positive; be truthful, be polite.
2. **Tell the truth.**
3. **Look for excellence and avoid inappropriate information.**
4. **Avoid plagiarism.**
5. **Be safe.**
Don't divulge any personal information, passwords or addresses with someone you don't really know.
6. **Know the rules.**
Whether you're using classroom forums, or any other social media channel, you need to know and follow the site's rules and guidelines.
7. **Be vigilant.**
If you see something online that may be harmful to someone else, report it to the site's authorities or an adult you trust. We all need to look out for each other.

Leave a Positive Digital Footprint

Following the general rules above is just as important as following the rules of the road. Think of your digital footprint like a driving record - all your infringements are traceable. But in this case, not just for the police to see, but also for everyone online.

In today's world, employers regularly carry out internet searches on potential job candidates. This has become standard practice. Proper grammar, tasteful photographs, and putting your best foot (print) forward, will pay off in the long run. Your future is in your own digital hands.

"Netiquette"

Refers to Internet etiquette. This simply means the use of good manners in online communication such as e-mail, forums, blogs, and social networking sites to name a few.

Why bother?

We bother because when on the internet, we aim to always operate in a God-honouring way. *So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.* (1 Corinthians 10:31)