

No doubt you can identify these popular social media icons...



Did you know that social media doesn't just refer to popular apps and sites like Instagram, Snapchat or Facebook? Social media refers to the times that two or more users can connect through a digital platform. Ever played a game and chatted with friends using a gaming console like an Xbox? That's considered social media. Social media can be a great tool in the right hands! It allows us to connect to friends that don't live locally or keep an eye on our favorite celebrities and see what they are up to. Using this tool for school work (because we are at school after all!) has some great advantages to when and where you complete your work and how we work in groups.

Safety measures is about knowing what information to keep to yourself and what to share. It's more than giving someone your password (shame on you if you have!). We don't really think about, but every time you post something on social media, you are sharing your personal data.

We have social rules when we interact with people in person and the same applies when we connect online. There are certain social rules we expect you to follow. Something as simple as WRITING IN CAPS is disrespectful because it's a method used to yell. Or deleting someone's work because you felt like it – that's not cool... Using sarcasm in a written comment is difficult detect and can cause confusion really quickly. Social contexts change all the time - how you text your friend is so different to how you might speak to your principal!

We need to also look at how using the digital system may impact others too. You could open an unknown file which could contain a virus, share information without permission or claim a photo or document was yours when it wasn't.

When working online it is important that everyone in your team follows those rules. Sometimes people don't follow these rules and that's when things get messy. If you are caught in a situation where people aren't following those rules (would you put up with a friend constantly speaking into megaphone, or would you tell them to stop?) speak to someone you can trust. It's ok to ask for help and speak up, what's not ok is to allow people to think that behavior is totally acceptable if you don't speak up. The only way to stamp out bad behavior is to call people on it.

