

Council Working Group on Child Online Protection Twentieth meeting - From 22 to 23 January 2024

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Contribution by the United Arab Emirates

ONLINE CHILD PROTECTION IN THE CURRICULUM

Action required

This report is transmitted to the Council Working Group on Child Online Protection for information.



UNITED ARAB EMIRATES MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Online Child Protection in the Curriculum

Ministry of Education

January 2024

UAE Initiatives



Curriculum and Guides Overview

Digital Literacy Cross-curricular Framework

The purpose of the Digital Literacy Framework is to provide stakeholders with an outline of the importance of digital literacy and how its related concepts, skills, and values can be incorporated across all subject curricula. The framework provides a set of stage-appropriate goals aligned to national and international frameworks, which are informed by United Arab Emirates (UAE) national policies, the UAE Centennial 2071 pillars, and the Ministry of Education (MoE) Computing, Creative Design, and Innovation (CCDI) subject. The skills embedded within the Digital Literacy Framework act as indicators for academic readiness and build a strong foundation for entry into Higher Education institutions and future careers. Within the Digital Literacy Cross-curricular Framework, there is a domain that explicitly focusses on citizenship and protection.

Online Safety Curriculum Content

The UAE Ministry of Education strategically incorporates online safety lessons throughout various subjects, aligning with the Digital Literacy Framework's goals. This integration ensures students acquire crucial technology skills while fostering a deep understanding of responsible online practices. By drawing on national policies, the UAE Centennial 2071 pillars, and the Ministry's CCDI subject, the curriculum equips students to navigate the digital landscape competently and conscientiously. This approach not only prepares them for academic success but also instills the essential tools for thriving in our digitally interconnected world, aligning with the broader goals of the UAE's educational vision.

Safe Education and Anti-Cyberbullying Guide

A guide that includes practical steps taken by the student, guardian, and school to achieve a safe educational environment from cyberbullying including online gaming.

Digital Security Guide

A guide designed for academics, professionals, and social workers to promote awareness regarding digital protection, aiming to assess the skills students acquire for safeguarding themselves against virtual threats.

Awareness campaigns in the field of digital protection

- Awareness workshops for parents to educate them about the available digital prevention methods so that they can benefit from this knowledge to protect their children from any electronic danger.
- Celebrating World Cyberbullying Day by launching a guide to preventing cyberbullying and a video recording for training (workers in the field of social care, counselling, mental health, child protection, and special needs) to be used while working with students in the field of awareness, case studies, and treatment.
- A national campaign to raise awareness and prevent cyberbullying and its signsIts effects and the correct procedures followed to prevent, reduce, and treat its effects in a manner appropriate to different ages, in cooperation with the National Committee for the Prevention of Bullying in the School Environment,
- An awareness cartoon series consisting of four episodes that addresses a number of dangers facing children in the digital world and introduces the appropriate ways of behaving .
- An awareness workshop targeting students in the second and third cycle to raise awareness about the risks facing children in the digital world and how to confront and prevent them. Through the workshop, students are also introduced to the relevant authorities to support and protect children.
- Training for parents to raise their awareness about child protection in all aspects, based on the national policy for child protection in educational institutions
- Electronic family consultations for parents in order to enhance family stability in building a student with psychological and social balance by providing family support to parents regarding the problems that hinder them from achieving family stability.

Digital prevention educational campaign

World Day for the Prevention of Cyberbullying

National Bullying Prevention Week Campaign (Cyberbullying)

The cartoon series "A Happy Student in the Digital Environment"

Awareness in digital protection

The role of the family in child protection

Family Counseling Initiative





UNITED ARAB EMIRATES MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Curriculum Examples

Digital Literacy Cross-curricular Framework

Example of the Citizen and Protection Domain

Citizenship and Protection

Table 4: Citizenship and Protection Level Progression

Citizenship and Protection

Digital citizenship refers to responsible positive engagement with digital technology and devices, and includes ensuring one's own wellbeing, respecting the rights and dignity of other users, and being mindful of the effects of online actions on oneself and others. Digital protection complements digital citizenship by providing strategies for implementing security measures to protect devices, oneself, and other users from potential online risks. Students who are knowledgeable about their digital well-being, positive digital footprint and reputation, online privacy and security, and IPR ensure their health, happiness, and quality of life in relation to their use of technology and digital devices. Students who are information and AI literate can become more effective learners who are critical consumers of information and technology, empowered to make informed decisions and to participate effectively in a rapidly changing world. This domain and its strands permeate through all other domains.

Strand	Level	Knowledge	Skills	Attitude/Value
Wellbeing By practicing good digital well-being habits, students can enjoy the benefits of technology while maintaining physical safety and good mental and emotional health. Students must develop the ability to manage their online presence with their physical and mental health in mind, understanding that cyber risks can have	L1	Mental: screen time, mindfulness and relaxation Physical: physical activity, posture Potential risks: Cyberbullying,	Follow allocated screen timings and adhere to adult guidance when using technology. Recognize the potential impact of technology on personal well-being.	Respect allocated screen timings. Appreciate physical activity and its benefits. Acknowledge the significance of
		addiction, eye strain, sleep disruption	Prioritize physical activity over online gaming. Identify instances of cyberbullying.	seeking assistance during periods of mental or physical strain. Encourage reporting of cyberbullying incidents.
	L2	Mental: digital distractions (links, pop-ups, ads, games, clickbait, nudging), mindfulness and relaxation Physical: lighting, positioning of devices, typing and clicking	Practice responsible digital behavior to avoid addiction and manage distractions. Prioritize mindfulness and relaxation techniques to maintain overall well- being.	Resist the urge to use technology. Appreciate that cyberbullying is a collective responsibility.

Creative Computing, Design and Innovation Curriculum

Examples of lesson on Online Safety and Ethics



6th Grade lesson on Online Safety



Health Sciences Curriculum

Examples of lesson on Digital Health

Digital health

Unit 9

9.1 Social media

- 9.2 Negative effects of social media
- 9.3 Social media and healthcare
- 9.4 Online presence and digital footprint
- 9.5 Finding reliable online information

Introduction

Social media are websites and apps that let people connect with others. They are beneficial for sharing information and helping people to communicate, but they can have disadvantages too when they are used in the wrong way.

Most people use at least one type of social media every day, and they are also increasingly used in healthcare by patients and healthcare providers to find and share health information.

In this unit you will learn about what social media is and how it is used in healthcare. You will study some of the positive and negative points of social media and learn how to stay safe online. Finally, you will learn how to search for reliable online information.



9.4 Online Presence and digital footprint

Personal eSafety

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As well as protecting your personal information, it is just as important to protect yourself and your online profile.



You have already learned that using the internet and social media can be a good way to share information and meet people. However, it can also be harmful because people can use the internet and social media to bully or hurt others. Your own personal use of the internet can harm your online profile too.



Digital safety services in the UAE

Computer Emergency Response Team (aeCERT)

The UAE has the Computer Emergency Response Team (aeCERT) which aims to improve information security in the UAE and protect the IT infrastructure from potential risks. aeCERT aims to ensure a safer cyberspace in the UAE. You can report cybersecurity concerns through aeCERT.



Salim

The UAE Computer Emergency Response Team (acCERT) launched the initiative Salim, which is an online cyber security advisor, with the slogan 'Towards a safe cyber culture'.

The goal of this initiative is to spread knowledge about cyber safety to the community and have a generation that has knowledge about information security and is careful online.

Cyber C3

C3 is designed to produce digitally literate and responsible UAE citizens, who are able to benefit from anline participation, while taking responsibility for their anline behaviour. Cybercitizenship is not only about startly and risk, it also encourages positive engagement in the anline environment.



SALIM

11^h Grade lesson on

Digital Health

11th Grade lesson on

Online Presence and Digital Footprint

English Curriculum

Examples of lesson on Online Safety and Cyberbullying



12th Grade lesson on Online Safety

12th Grade lesson on **Cyberbullying**

Arabic Curriculum

Examples of lesson on Cyberbullying



Moral, Social and Cultural Studies Curriculum

Examples of lesson on Cyberbullying



7th Grade lesson on Electronic Abuse

Islamic Education Curriculum

Examples of lesson on Cyberbullying



