



PUNGGOL GREEN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Every PGPS Student, A Future-Ready Leader

Engaging Learners, Nurturing Leaders, Empowering Givers

98, Punggol Walk, Singapore (828772)

<http://www.punggolgreenpri.moe.edu.sg>

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17 September 2019

ADVISORY NOTE TO PARENTS

To: Parents/Guardians

POSSESSION AND MISUSE OF MOBILE PHONES

Since last term, we have noticed that the number of students bringing their mobile phones to school has been increasing. As stated on Page 5 of the Student Organiser under 'General School Rules', the use of mobile phones is not allowed at all times within the school premises.

Most of our students abide to this rule and would take their phones out only at dismissal, outside of the school premises. However, based on our observations, most of them are using their phones mainly for entertainment purposes and not for the intent of contacting their caregivers. As such, we would like to advise you to discourage your child/ward from bringing their phones to school. Misuse of the phones: listening to loud music with their earphones that they cannot hear a person's shouts of warning or a car's warning honk, playing with games while crossing the roads, etc. can cause a lot of harm and danger to your child/ward and the people around.

Should any of our students require to contact their caregiver, they are allowed to use the school phone in the General Office.

Secondly, we have also observed that many students have access to WhatsApp and social media platforms (Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, etc.) and we would like to urge you to be sure that you know what social media sites your child/ward is on. Do check their phones/devices on a regular basis, and have conversations with your child/ward about what they are doing and who they are talking to on their devices.

We have included some tips for you which we hope you will find useful.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding in this matter. Let's continue to work together in making the school a safe and happy learning environment for your child and all around.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Seah Lay Tin
Principal

Helping Your Children with Appropriate Online Expression



What is Appropriate Online Expression?

Appropriate online expression refers to online communication which is socially appropriate and does not bring about conflicting opinions and stereotypes. With appropriate online expression, one can create a meaningful and positive presence in the cyber community. However, youths may engage in inappropriate online expression either intentionally or unintentionally.

Examples of inappropriate online expressions include

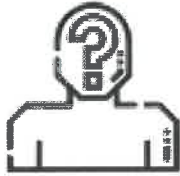


Using vulgarities

- Using vulgar words to provoke an online fight

Possible Sites:

- Online games (e.g. Mobile Legends, Minecraft)



Pretending to be someone else

- Creating a false representation of self online due to a desire to 'hide' or deceive

Possible Sites:

- Social news websites (e.g. STOMP, Mothership)

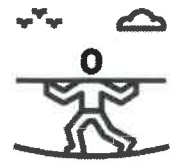


Posting insensitive content

- Creating and posting images / videos that may offend or hurt others (e.g. public shaming)

Possible Sites:

- Meme pages (e.g. Kiasu Memes for Singaporean Teens, Finsta)



Going too far in attracting "Likes" online

- Curating picture-perfect photos or videos of oneself or others so as to garner online "Likes" (e.g. performing dangerous challenges)

Possible Sites:

- Social networking sites (e.g. Snapchat, Facebook)
- Internet Challenges (e.g. #IceBucketChallenge, pakour) through YouTube



Why is it a Concern?

- Everything online is searchable, replicable, and contributes to a permanent digital reputation
- Inappropriate online expression may affect a child's social, emotional and mental well-being



How can Parents Help?

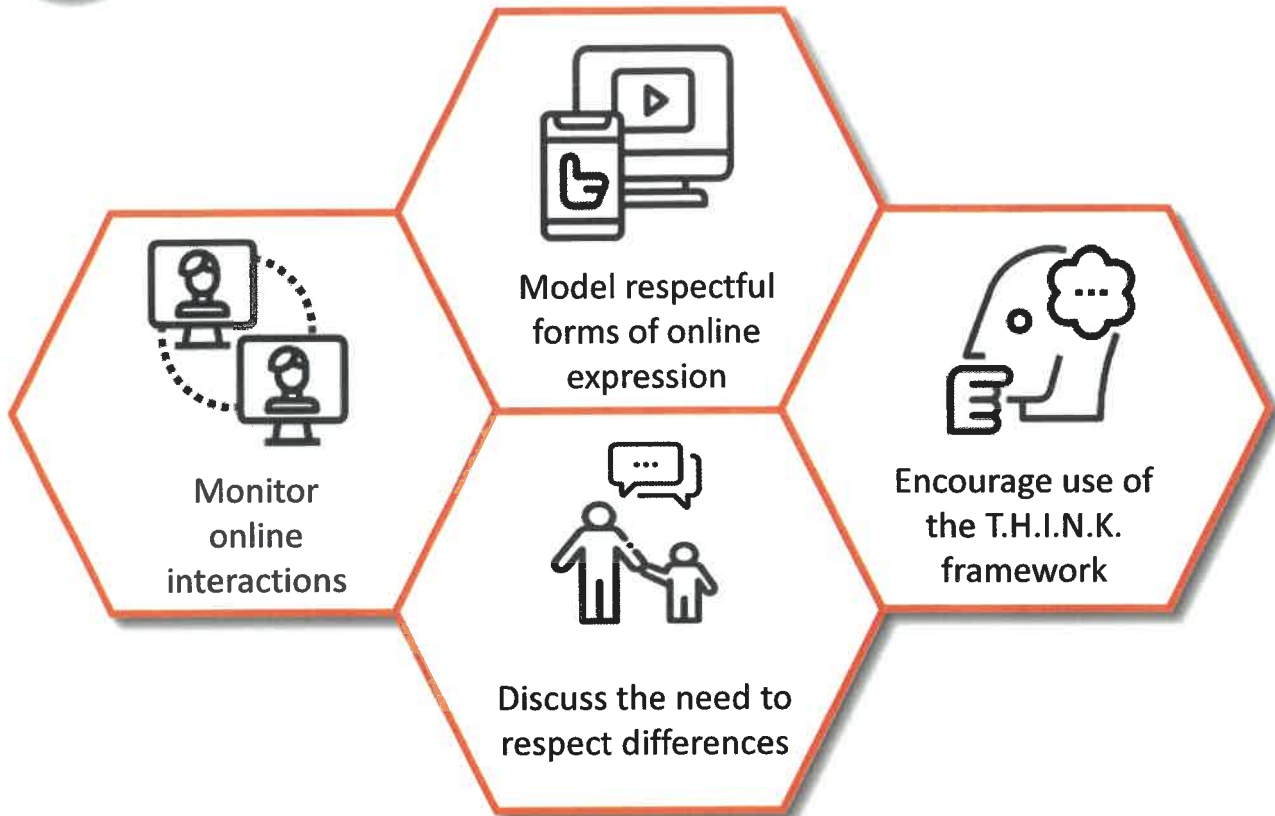
Parents can help by:

- ✓ Modelling respectful forms of online expression
 - e.g. not engaging in aggressive expressions while gaming online or on social media
- ✓ Sharing examples of positive online expressions
 - e.g. inspirational stories from social media
- ✓ Encouraging use of the T.H.I.N.K. framework before posting anything online
 - Is it True, is it Helpful, is it Inspiring, is it Necessary, is it Kind?
- ✓ Discussing with children the need to respect differences in views, opinions and beliefs
 - Encourage them to respond politely and objectively even if they disagree with what others say
- ✓ Monitoring the interactions of their children with others on social media or online games
 - e.g. connect with their children on social media, join them in online games





Key Messages



Resources



MOE Cyber Wellness Portal

Useful tips, strategies and resources on various cyber issues.
ictconnection.moe.edu.sg/cyber-wellness



Media Literacy Council

Information, tips and resources by Media Literacy Council on managing online expression.
betterinternet.sg/-/media/Resources/PDFs/Youth-Guides/Media-Wise-Youth-Guide.pdf



Clique Click

Handbook produced by MLC to help parents guide their children on their internet journey.
betterinternet.sg/-/media/Resources/PDFs/Parents-Guides/CliqueClick-Parent-Guide.pdf



Give us your feedback!