Security aspects

A definition

Security aspects of social media are all the strategies you can use to protect your social media accounts from threats like hacking, phishing, and malware. It is about staying safe, and preventing risks through good practices and useful digital tools.

Why is this important?

Social media platforms are a great place to communicate with your peers, discover new things, learn and entertain yourself. However, it involves some risks when you don't pay attention. Those risks can be discrimination, cyberbullying, harassment, phishing, identity theft, online exploitation, abuse, scams, etc.

Tips and tricks

→ Security aspects are about paying attention to your privacy on social media. To introduce tips and tricks to your students, you can share the tiktoktips TikTok channel providing lots of good practices on safety and privacy on social media. You can use digital tools such as Virtual Private Networks (VPNs) to increase your data protection.

→ Ensure you know how to report, block and filter content on each social media. Consult our safety resources on "How and whom to ask for help".

→ Don't accept friends if you don't know the profile. Do not hesitate to block a profile if you see they start to send you unwanted messages. You can consult our safety resources on "How to safely start & manage online friendships".

→ Be aware of what you post, what you click on, what you see. Stay critical. See our safety resources on "Be careful what you post" and "Critical thinking".

→ Start an open discussion or debate on social media security aspects with your students. See our safety resources on "How to talk to your child about social media".

Useful resources and tools

↗ Higgin T. (2022), Keeping Your Students (and Yourself) Safe on Social Media: A Checklist, Common Sense Education. This article provides good practices to ensure the safety of students on social media.

The TikTok channel Tiktoktips promotes privacy and safety on social media.

The article "The Importance of Using a VPN for Social Media Users" by Ideta (2023) provides information on what a VPN is and why it is useful on social media to protect your data and confidentiality.

The article from Chapter247, titled "5 Tools to secure your social media accounts" (2019), explains what digital tools you can use to be safer on social media, such as antivirus and security software, password manager, or tools to alert you when unauthorised activity occurs on your device.