Respect others' privacy

A definition

Each person has the fundamental right to make their own decisions regarding private or personal matters. The European Union put a big emphasis on this topic with the adoption of the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Nevertheless, respecting others' privacy should not be done only because of legal requirements but also out of respect for other people.

Why is this important?

In the current digital world where everyone shares their pictures, videos, ideas, and content, it may be difficult to understand the boundary between what is public and what is private and which kinds of behaviours may not be respectful of others' privacy. Nevertheless, we should take into consideration that we must respect others' privacy which is a human right. Being online and behind a screen does not allow us to not respect "netiquette", e.g. good behaviour on the Internet.

Tips and tricks

→ Do not share others' information if you are not completely sure that the other person agrees. Think about the consequences and potential reactions of your online actions before sharing information: people may get offended or may see it as a violation of their privacy.

→ Mind your language and don't be aggressive towards others, including online.

→ Verify the credits of the content before sharing, for example using the reverse search, finding the author's name or the original source.

→ Tell your students to never share their social media account password with friends or partners, as they might use their account for malicious purposes.

Useful resources and tools

↗ Thorin Klosowski in The New York Times, How to protect your digital privacy, explains how to protect your digital privacy.

↗ OECD Privacy guidelines