

VIT Video

DIGITAL PROFESSIONALISM

The online environment is an ever-expanding resource which provides great opportunities for teachers, and some serious traps to avoid.

Digital professionalism is obviously as important as being a professional your workplace or the community.

Your school or workplace may have policies regarding electronic communication or social media. If so, that's your first point of reference. But here's some tips and thought-starters to help you minimise the risks.

Communicate at appropriate times and through authorised educational platforms.

Don't use your personal accounts for educational reasons.

Use a professional tone in all your communications with students and parents.

Avoid exchanging personal texts, phone numbers, emails, videos or photos.

Don't 'friend' or 'follow' students and think carefully about this in relation to parents.

Obtain the appropriate consent before you use any student information on social media or websites.

Make sure you've maximised the privacy on all your social media sites so that students cannot post or view content.

Assume that anything you post can be accessed.

Monitor all content you or others post to your social media. Remove anything that is inappropriate, ask others to do the same if it is related to you and keep a record of that request.

Ask others not to tag you without permission.

Think about this question: whatever I post, or is posted by others about me – wherever the setting - how does it reflect my professionalism? My school? The teaching profession as a whole?

Would I be comfortable if it was seen by my students, their parents, the school or the wider community?

These are the same standards you would apply in your classroom or learning environment.

These aren't rules. But they are handy to remember if you're in doubt.

Use your judgement. Follow whatever policies are in place and seek advice if necessary.

Being a digital professional protects you as a teacher and the teaching profession and sets a great example for your learners.