

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS & WELLBEING - JUNIOR SCHOOL

Learning to Be Safe, Savvy, and Social in the Digital World

In today's digital age, teaching children how to be responsible and respectful online is just as important as teaching them to say "please" and "thank you" in the real world. That's why, during our weekly Manners Matter lessons, students have been exploring the important topic of Digital Citizenship - what it means to be safe, savvy, and social in their online interactions.

Being Safe

Our first focus has been on online safety. Students are learning how to protect personal information, recognise safe websites, and understand the importance of speaking up if something online makes them feel uncomfortable. We're helping students become aware of "digital strangers" and understand that just like in real life, we must be cautious about who we trust online.

Being Savvy

Next, we explored what it means to be tech-savvy. This includes understanding how to spot misinformation, being critical of what they see and read online, and thinking carefully before clicking or sharing. We encourage children to ask, "Is this kind? Is this true? Is this helpful?" especially when creating or passing along digital content.

Being Social (and Kind!)

Copyright Thomas Hassall Anglican College. All Rights Reserved. 125 Kingsford Smith Ave, Middleton Grange NSW 2171

Finally, our lessons highlight positive digital social skills. Students are learning about respectful online communication, including how to respond kindly to others, avoid digital drama, and be upstanders not bystanders when they see unkind behaviour online. Just as we practise good manners in the classroom, we’re helping students carry those same values into their online lives.

As part of these lessons, students participate in role-playing, class discussions, and age-appropriate scenarios to help them practise their digital manners in a safe and supportive environment.

We encourage you to keep the conversation going at home. Ask your child:

- What does it mean to be safe online?
- What are some examples of good digital manners?
- How do you show kindness to others when you're using technology?

Together, we can help our students grow into confident, kind, and thoughtful digital citizens.

Mrs Kylie Singles
Director of Operations & Wellbeing – Junior School

Copyright Thomas Hassall Anglican College. All Rights Reserved. 125 Kingsford Smith Ave, Middleton Grange NSW 2171