

Online Safety: The Role of Teachers in Social Media Usage & Virtual Classroom Security

¹**Ms. Shital Prabhakar Aher**, M.Sc. M.Ed., Ashoka College of Education, Nashik.

²**Mr. Vikas Nimba Bachhav**, M.Sc. B.Ed. Lecturer, K.K.Wagh Polytechnic Nashik.

Abstract

The education system has been transformed from the time of the pandemic. Students of all ages are becoming more acquainted with the internet and its applications. It has a positive way as learning is not compromised, and students gain knowledge via teachers anywhere in the world. However, it has an impact on internet addiction in students particularly after the epidemic. This paper is about the safety and security of utilising the internet, as well as how teachers can help speed this process.

Key Words: Social Media, Virtual Classroom, Security

Introduction:

For educators, social media offers limitless possibilities. It can assist students enhance their digital literacy and critical thinking abilities as a tool. Seeing their teacher participating in appropriate online communication is a great approach for children to demonstrate that social media can be used responsibly and productively. The term "social media privacy" describes the private and delicate information that can be gleaned from our accounts. This information may be purposefully published in public profiles and postings or unintentionally disclosed for example, through data sharing between websites and other businesses through social media marketing. Educators have a responsibility to aware the pupils about social media usage as they need to do so in the future.

Best practices for creating and maintaining secure social media accounts.

- Assessing teachers' knowledge and understanding of cyber security practices when using social media platforms for educational purposes is necessary.
- **Be safe on social media** — keeping a professional social media account can be a great way to keep parents and other educators in the loop about what we are doing in virtual classroom. This will also mean that we need to review the privacy settings of each social account, making it as secure and private as possible.
- **Ensure that the tools are encrypted** — Make sure the data is transmitted and stored securely when we visit an educational website.

- **Check each tool's privacy policy** — Check to see whether there is a privacy policy in place before using any apps or websites. Examine each policy's position on protecting student data privacy by reading through it, and only use products that adhere to the school's rules on student data privacy.
- **Quick Tip:** We understand that it's time-consuming to review every privacy policy. Check to see if a school or district has a list of tools that have had their security and privacy guidelines reviewed and approved by specialists.
- **Be transparent with students and parents** —At the beginning of the semester, create a list of tools you'll be using in class and make it available for parents to access. On this list, we should also link to each of the tool's individual privacy policies for parents to review.

Guidelines for teachers: Following are the guidelines for teachers to educate students about responsible social media usage, cyberbullying prevention, and online etiquette

- Review current privacy settings and make sure the account has not been made public by default
- Set strong passwords, and enable two-factor authentication (2FA) on accounts whenever available
- Create a separate email account to use just for social media profiles and third-party apps. With Aura, we can easily create and manage “throwaway” email accounts that give you access to services while protecting your main inbox
- Disable location sharing across all social media, and avoid using geotagged photos

Importance of promoting digital citizenship and online safety among students when using social media.

Teachers today need to think about how to get their students ready for a society that is increasingly controlled by technology. Students gain essential knowledge about how to be safe and succeed from a curriculum that focuses on digital citizenship. Teaching pupil's digital citizenship also entails preparing them to recognise malware and online scams. Effective internet safety measures, such as making strong passwords and avoiding opening files from senders you don't know

Teachers should handle incidents such as inappropriate content, cyberbullying, or privacy breaches on the social media platform. Cyberbullying should obviously be taken seriously. But it's also crucial to keep in mind that, depending on their age, children are still learning things like empathy, self-control, self-regulation, and how to behave politely online. All those concerned may learn something from these circumstances. Be aware of your students' emotional state. Do they seem depressed? Likewise, get in touch with their support systems, which may include their parents or other carers, the school counsellor, a coach, or other teachers.

Virtual Classroom

A virtual classroom is an online teaching and learning environment where students and teachers can collaborate in groups, present course materials, and engage and communicate with one another. A virtual classroom differs from a traditional one in that it is conducted in real time. Instructors and students engage in real-time communication in virtual learning environments. Programs for online learning include virtual classrooms,

Measures to secure virtual classroom and protect students' information

Safety in the virtual classroom depends on two main factors – the first is the participants' behaviour and the second is the security features that the software provides for extra protection.

As a teacher I will Create and follow strict and clear security and privacy guidelines. The guidelines include instructions for: websites that are safe to visit, appropriate behaviour in the virtual classroom, apps and software that are approved to use, etc.

- Enable the Waiting Room: The Waiting Room feature is one of the best ways to protect virtual classroom and keep out those who aren't supposed to be there.
- Passcode-protect the classroom: Create a passcode and share with your students via school email so only those intended to join can access a virtual classroom.
- Require registration: This shows you every email address of everyone who signed up to join your class and can help you evaluate who's attending.
- Restrict annotation: This feature prevents students from annotating on shared content. It also will show the names of individuals annotating if it's allowed.
- Use a random meeting ID: It's best practice to generate a random meeting ID for your class, so it can't be shared multiple times. This is the better alternative to using your Personal Meeting ID, which is not advised because it's basically an ongoing meeting that's always running.

Communicate the importance of cybersecurity to your students and ensure that they follow best practices while using the online platform. The biggest problem today is cybersecurity. Many cyber threats are caused by human error. Effective strategy for communicating the importance of cybersecurity is to use real-world examples to illustrate the threat landscape. This can include sharing case studies of incidents that have been impacted by cyber-attacks. Discussing the latest cyber threats that are currently making headlines Sharing success stories of who have implemented cybersecurity measures can be a powerful way to communicate the importance of cybersecurity.

steps if a student's account has been compromised, or any suspicious activity on the online platform?

- **Remove a participant:** If someone who's not meant to be there somehow manages to join a virtual classroom, we can easily remove them from the Participants. & will take care of all above security measures to maintain security protection
- **Lock down the chat:** As a Teacher we can restrict the in-class chat so students cannot privately message other students.

Conclusion:

One of the most effective methods of education nowadays is online learning, which provides a wealth of opportunities for research and technological exploration. The sky's the limit when the immense potential that virtual learning offers is combined with responsibility and successful methods for maintaining the user experience's safety and security.

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