



CIRCULAR

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From: Dr. Omar Seguna – Education Officer Digital Literacy

To: Directors General
Chief Information Officers
Chairpersons/Chief Executive Officers
Directors/Assistant Directors
Heads College Network
Heads of State Schools/Education Officers/Heads of Department

Subject: European Year of Digital Citizenship Education 2025

Date: 24th February 2025

During this year, Malta, together with other European countries, is emphasising the importance of the European Year of Digital Citizenship Education 2025. Throughout February, following Safer Internet Day on the 11th of February, which underscores the opportunities the Internet provides and the need to make it safer, the Directorate for Digital Literacy and Transversal Skills is collaborating with other European institutions. Together, they are promoting responsible internet use.

Various actions are being undertaken throughout this year as part of our commitment to empowering our students with essential digital literacy skills.

(a) Parents are invited to join us for a series of informative webinars designed to help guide our children in using the internet safely and responsibly. During these sessions, we will explore crucial topics such as:

- **Analysing Fake News, Misinformation, and Disinformation:** Learn how to identify and combat false information online.
- **Doomscrolling:** Understand the impact of excessive negative news consumption and how to manage it.
- **Fear of Missing Out (FOMO):** Discover strategies to help children cope with the anxiety of missing out on social media.
- **The Impact of AI:** Discuss the influence of artificial intelligence on our children's online experiences and how to navigate it safely.

These tools will help guardians empower themselves with the knowledge and tools to support your children in building safe and healthy online habits.



Session Dates (between 6.30pm to 7.15pm):

- Monday, 3rd March (School Holiday)
- Monday, 10th March
- Monday, 17th March
- Thursday, 27th March

Those who are interested are invited to complete the form below to register for the sessions: https://bit.ly/sid_parents2025

(b) **Schools** are kindly encouraged to organize activities related to internet safety throughout this month and record the activities organized in Malta by uploading them to https://bit.ly/ddlts_sid2025.

(c) The Directorate for Digital Literacy and Transversal Skills within the Ministry for Education, Sport, Youth, Research, and Innovation is collaborating with Professor Alex Grech to launch the second version of *Young People & Information: A Manifesto*, a publication by The 3CL Foundation. Led by Professor Grech, this manifesto highlights the urgent need for action from policymakers, educators, and technology companies to address critical issues related to misinformation, digital literacy, and data privacy, fostering a more informed and responsible digital society. This manifesto underscores the **pressing need to combat misinformation, strengthen media literacy, and ensure data privacy** in an increasingly complex digital landscape. More information on our page <https://digitalliteracy.skola.edu.mt/fake-news-manifesto/>

(d) At the beginning of this scholastic year, the eSkills Malta Foundation, in collaboration with the Directorate for Digital Literacy and Transversal Skills, announced an initiative to deliver Online Safety sessions for students in Years 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9. The uptake of these sessions was huge.

Mr. Neil Attard
Director
Directorate for Digital Literacy and Transversal Skills