

## **Safe use of internet**

Nowadays, with the increased development of technology and digital evolution, children start using the Internet at a very young age.

The digital era in which we live today, consciously or unconsciously greatly affects our daily lives, habits, communication, learning. Being available on mobile, on desktop, on laptop, on tablet, and on smart devices has become an integral part of people's lives. All this is rather positive since the Internet is a great resource that provides unlimited opportunities for learning, personal development and entertainment.

The Internet is one of the benefits of the modern way of life. The Internet is a "place" where people in general, and young people in particular, can communicate and connect, exchange experiences, discover new things, find information and develop their creativity in various areas and ways. However, despite the huge opportunities it offers, there are a number of potential threats lurking in the dark, if the internet is not used properly and with a great dose of caution. Namely, the content which is rather easily available on the Internet is quite often used to achieve a great deal of goals and satisfy interests that are not always frank and harmless, such as: profit making, propaganda, fake news, mobilization for radical purposes, cyber-bullying and likewise. Due to this, and the fact that the Internet is available on multiple devices used in many places: at home, at school, with friends, it is necessary to develop an approach for proper use of the Internet that should include the school staff, parents/guardians and students, and youngsters.

We, the students, may be at greater risk because of the way we behave online, that is, we easily disclose and share personal information and data that can later be used for other purposes. Therefore, we must be all aware of the fact that every activity on the Internet has an impact on us and other people, because in the digital world the activity on the Internet leaves a digital mark in the form of personal data and information that can be used for different objectives. Hence, we need to be informed about who can see our posts, what type of information we must not share online, especially not with strangers. This is especially important because through the ability to create fake profiles and conceal the true identity, we can be misled and reveal the personal information and data of strangers.

For our greater safety and protection within the digital world, it is important to define and set rules for the use of computers, smart devices and the Internet at home, school and other places (at friends' houses, public places, and etc.). The defining of the rules and their implementation should be done by mutual involvement of all participants based on trust and respect. At the very beginning each of us should become acquainted with the

most basic rules for safe use of the Internet and how to deal with the problems on the Internet

- 1 Adults should be able to bring the Internet closer to the children in the simplest way and in a language understandable to their age
- 2 They should explore the Internet together and identify sites which are safe to use. Adults should always ask the children to let them know what they watch and search online and inform them if they come across content that they are not sure whether it is real and posted at the right site
- 3 Each of us should be familiar with the rules of internet communication, and we should also understand that the applicable rules of internet communication are the same as in everyday life:
  - we do not talk to strangers, and do not give our personal data to anyone;
  - no gifts are to be received from people we do not know;
  - we should neither communicate with strangers, nor meet them in person;
  - everything which is impolite to be said in person, is not to be said on the Internet, etc.
- 4 Adults and children should constantly discuss what interests them and what can be learned online
- 5 Online violence against children should be prevented. On some online gaming websites, some gamers simply bully and humiliate other players. These are known as "cyber-bullies". Despite the fact that game administrators are struggling to prevent this, there is no way to do it completely. However, the parental control software can support the prevention.

To sum up, nowadays, the technological development is galloping, the viral world is evolving and every second different contents are generated; the technology becomes smarter and the living becomes simpler. This is the world we are growing up in. Within this digital world, it is especially important that we all educate ourselves in a timely manner on how to use the benefits of the technology, learn, entertain ourselves, and become more independent and aware of our actions. Doing all these in the safest way possible within the world of the internet is a must.