Some people act differently online as compared to real life. They feel braver and bully others on social media. They can say mean and hurtful things that they wouldn't say to someone's face.

Respecting others in the digital world is often more difficult than in the real world because all the visual information that usually helps us is not there.

- We're not making eye contact, hearing their tone of voice, seeing their faces or judging their moods.
- We can't see their body language or if they are crying, laughing, smiling, throwing their hands in the air, looking interested or even bored.

Because what we say can be easily misunderstood, we have to work harder and be more careful when communicating with people online.



It's important to respect and accept differences – not everybody is the same; they come from different places, have different beliefs and speak different languages. If you take care to build positive and productive connections, this helps to create an online community that listens, understands and creates together.

How do I communicate with respect?

- 1. Keep in mind that behind every screen is a human being just like you and me. Everyone is important, so treat them as you would like to be treated yourself.
- 2. Remember to place yourself in other people's shoes and accept their differences by being kind and sensitive to people's feelings, backgrounds and perspectives.
- 3. Be open and try not to jump to conclusions: ask yourself if you have all the information before responding in a particular way.





"I think before I share"



"I treat others as I want to be treated"



"I take control through safe and secure online practices"





