

Let's have a conversation!

Monthly dialogue with parents of Bal Bharatians on student-centric issues



Bal Bharati PUBLIC SCHOOL

Dear Parent,

Every month, we seek views, ideas and suggestions from you, on various topics that are important for the progress and well-being of your child. Parents' inputs are invaluable in helping us shape the school's policies and practices to better serve the needs of our students.

Here we are featuring some of the thought-provoking responses to the topic of the month.

TOPIC

Which digital literacy skills are most important for students, and how can we support them in building these skills?



The school already holds many enriching workshops to sensitise students about digital technology. For example, coding was introduced in the curriculum last year. Still, as a parent, I think a few essential digital literacy skills also need to be taught to the children:

- Simulations to mimic cyber threats, helping students learn how to identify and respond to phishing attacks and malware.
- Projects to investigate the credibility of online sources, analysing news articles and social media.
- Workshops on creating secure passwords through peer tutorials or tech mentors.
- Tutorials, created and led by students, on topics related to digital literacy topics.
- Sessions to guide students in analysing and managing their digital footprints, and understanding the implications of their online presence.



Certificates and public appreciation should be given to students who show initiative as learners and facilitators.

Manish Sharma, Father of Aadrit, Class VII, BBPS Gangaram



In my opinion, critical thinking and information evaluation are crucial. Students need to discern fact from fiction online, and understand bias in information. We can support this by encouraging them to use multiple sources and question what they read. Also, teaching them online safety and responsible communication is vital for a positive digital experience. Individuals who are digitally literate are better equipped to access information, communicate with others, solve problems, and participate in the digital economy. Digital literacy promotes creativity, collaboration, and innovation, as people are able to leverage technology to express themselves, work together on projects, and create new solutions to challenges.

Pushendra Singh Baghel, Father of Vanshika, Class VIII, BBPS Anuppur

As technology continues to become more and more ingrained in daily life, the importance of digital literacy is becoming increasingly apparent. The most important digital literacy skills for students include:

- Basic computer skills, related to both hardware and software, creating/ saving/ organising/ retrieving digital files.
- Internet navigation, including the use of different web browsers, and evaluating online resources.
- Online communication - Composing, sending, and managing emails; use of platforms like Google Docs and Microsoft Teams for teamwork and communication.
- Digital safety and ethics - Understanding the importance of strong passwords, recognising phishing attempts, and protecting personal information.



To support students in building these skills, the school should integrate technology into the curriculum, provide students access to necessary devices and up-to-date software, ensure training for teachers, establish a system of collaborative learning, and conduct regular upskilling workshops related to new technologies.

Rahimkhan Pathan, Father of Mahammad, Class VIII, BBPS Jhanor

Imagine being a detective! The internet is a giant mystery box, full of clues and information. To be great online detectives, students need to play three different and exciting roles:

1. Truth Seeker: Can they spot hidden clues and figure out what's real online? We can help them compare websites and check sources, just like following a trail.
2. Cyber Citizen: Do they know online safety rules? We can teach them to be kind to others and keep their personal info safe, similar to wearing a helmet while riding a bike online.
3. Team Player: Can they work effectively with others online? We can show them cool tools to share ideas and projects with classmates, just like detectives working together to solve a case.



With these skills, students will be superstar web detectives, ready to explore the amazing online world!

Onkar Sehgal, Father of Ikhwaak, Class VII, BBPS Manesar

In today's digital era, acquiring essential digital literacy skills is paramount for students to navigate the online world effectively. Firstly, information literacy is vital, enabling students to discern credible sources from those spreading misinformation. Secondly, media literacy equips them with the ability to critically analyse and evaluate media content, fostering informed decision-making. And thirdly, technological literacy empowers students to utilise digital tools and platforms for learning and communication.

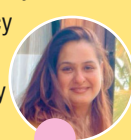
To support students in building these skills, schools can integrate digital literacy into the curriculum through interactive lessons and hands-on activities. Educators can also provide guidance on responsible online behaviour and encourage students to question and verify information. They should also create a collaborative learning environment where students can share knowledge and learn from each other. By prioritising these skills and offering necessary support to students, the school can enable them to become savvy digital citizens capable of thriving in the digital age.



Rambaboo Rajak, Father of Palak, Class IX, BBPS Neelbad

These days, technology puts everything on our fingertips, or on our screens, to be more precise. The foremost digital literacy skill should be understanding fundamental cybersecurity principles, enabling students to secure their personal information and devices from online dangers.

The 'Accept all cookies' and 'Accept T&C' buttons that we click unthinkingly hold great power with regards to our privacy. Students should understand how to control their digital footprint and preserve their privacy online through appropriate privacy settings on social media platforms, and by exercising caution when sharing personal information. They need to appreciate that algorithms show us more of what we consume online, so they should develop the ability to critically analyse and evaluate digital content. Parents and teachers should explore digital tools and resources together with children, to create necessary awareness.



Meenu Anand, Mother of Ananya, Class XI, BBPS Noida



Today's students need a toolkit brimming with digital literacy skills to navigate the vast digital landscape. Some of the key skills include information literacy to sift through endless data streams, online safety to guard against lurking cyber threats, and effective communication to express ideas vividly in virtual spaces. Equally crucial is critical thinking, which empowers them to spot fake news and distinguish fact from fiction. To nurture these skills, imagine classrooms buzzing with interactive tech challenges, where students dive into real-world digital quests, unravel cybersecurity mysteries, and engage in lively debates about digital ethics. By weaving digital literacy into everyday lessons and fostering an environment that celebrates curiosity and critical inquiry, we can equip our students not just to survive, but to thrive in the digital age.

Akash Sood, Father of Avni, Class XII, BBPS Pitampura

Students must acquire essential digital literacy skills to excel both academically and professionally. Here are some competencies necessary for navigating the digitally-enabled academic landscape:

- Proficiency in computer operations.
- Building a responsible digital footprint.
- Awareness of internet safety protocols.
- Understanding cybersecurity trends and threats.
- Utilising online collaboration tools effectively.



It is imperative for students to be well-versed in cybersecurity principles, including identifying phishing attempts and adopting a 'Zero Trust' approach to online interactions. Providing guidance on best practices and establishing clear Dos and Don'ts can empower students to safeguard their digital identities and navigate the online landscape with confidence.

Sunita & Bharat Tank, Parents of Vedanth, Class VIII, BBPS Rohini



For students, mastering digital literacy is like unlocking a treasure trove of skills vital for navigating the modern world. They need to learn how to filter through the vast ocean of online information, separating the gems from the rocks, which calls for sharp critical thinking. Similarly important is understanding the dangers dotting the digital landscape and how to navigate it safely, like knowing the ins and outs of a wild jungle. Communication in this area isn't just about talking, it is about expressing ideas clearly and respectfully in the digital arena. Creativity is the compass guiding them through this digital maze, encouraging them to innovate and solve problems. To support students, the school must integrate these skills into lessons, fostering exploration and hands-on learning. Providing safe spaces for experimentation and guidance on digital citizenship principles is key. By empowering students with these skills, we equip them to succeed in the digital age.

Rajani Padala, Mother of Arya, Class IV, BBPS Sipat

Digital technology has emerged as a powerful tool in every aspect of modern life. It is crucial to develop a variety of digital literacy skills in students, to help them navigate their high-tech surroundings effectively. Digital literacy encompasses the ability to understand and utilise digital technology in daily life. Students proficient in digital tools and techniques have better prospects of employment, and are more adept at tasks such as online communication, content creation, data interpretation, collaboration, and cybersecurity awareness. Skills like coding, web design, and app development are particularly advantageous in today's digital landscape. Integrating courses on useful information practices into the curriculum can help instil these skills in students. Additionally, online courses can be valuable resources for students looking to develop their digital literacy further. There are numerous apps and websites available today, where students can acquire various digital skills.



Siyama Negi, Mother of Vaibhavi, Class IX, BBPS Solan

TOPIC FOR THE NEXT MONTH

How can we encourage a growth mindset in our students, so that they develop a positive attitude towards learning from setbacks, challenges, and feedback?

Share with us your frank views about the topic. There is no correct or incorrect answer. All responses will help us in making the journey of our students more productive and joyful.