

MDLS 'contents'



MDLS is a starting point for thinking about family needs, barriers, and how needs can be met.

All elements are needed – in combination – for a household with children to feel digitally included.

Digital goods and services	
Home Broadband	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> With sufficient reliability and speed to support all family members to access the internet at the same time
Mobile phone and data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An entry-level smart phone per parent and secondary school age child + 5GB data per month each An extra 3GB of data per month if they have a child of pre-school or primary school age.
Large screen device	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A laptop, tablet or PC per household – parent(s) and first child share one device. An additional device for every further school age child.
Headphones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A set of headphones for school age children
Television and TV subscription	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A smart TV, entry-level 32" screen An entry-level TV subscription service (e.g. Netflix, Disney+) in addition to a TV licence
Access to online gaming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An adequate large screen device and access (via an entry-level subscription or other means) for school age children to be able to participate in online gaming with their peers

The Minimum Digital Living Standard

Functional skills	
Using digital devices, programmes and the internet	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Using device functions Using apps and programmes Downloading apps and programmes Saving and recovering documents Connecting devices to the internet/hotspots Changing settings
Engagement online	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Using Zoom/Teams/Google classrooms Performing browser searches Using school apps (homework, school-home communication) Creating an email account and sending emails Online bookings and forms (e.g. appointments) Cashless/online payments
Managing and monitoring digital devices and data usage	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Creating and sorting files and folders Turning off devices properly Deleting old files to manage device storage Monitoring and managing phone data usage

Critical skills	
Managing security	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Using secure passwords Knowing about and avoiding in-app purchases Using phone safety features out and about (e.g. 'triple tap' or 'SOS') Monitoring banking activity online Removing bank card details to avoid accidental purchases <p>Knowing how to apply parental controls</p>
Interacting with others	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluating what details to share online Identifying risks (e.g. scams, unsafe links, catfishers, groomers) Evaluating friend requests Managing social pressures and time online
Sharing and receiving information	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluating quality of information (e.g. identifying mis/disinformation or unrealistic images) Knowing how to avoid and report inappropriate/offensive content Understanding digital footprint

Skills

The skills outlined below are needed by parents, and colours indicate the age/stage by which children need to begin developing these skills, according to parents and young people.

1 Pre-school 2 Early primary school 3 Late primary school 4 Early secondary school 5 Late secondary school