

STRENGTHENING DIGITAL SKILLS FOR TEACHERS

In every classroom today, digital environments shape what students know, how they learn, and who they become. A history lesson may be interrupted by a claim sourced from TikTok. A maths group chat can spiral over a viral rumour. A science project can thrive thanks to an open-source tool.

Teachers stand at the frontline of these shifts. Beyond subject experts, they must act as digital mentors, guiding students through a world where information can both empower and mislead. Digital literacy is not confined to ICT; it runs through every subject. Geography teachers confront climate misinformation. English teachers help students assess online sources. Even PE teachers may need to challenge harmful fitness trends circulating on social media.

Yet, recent EU-funded EFFEct and DRONE research shows teachers are not fully equipped for this role, according to students, parents, and school leaders. Students report that schools do little to develop their digital literacy. Parents feel left alone in guiding their children online. Teachers also score relatively low in transversal competences such as critical thinking, problem solving, and resilience building, limiting their capacity to support students. Dutch research further indicates low levels of student trust in teachers or school staff when choosing whom to approach after an incident.

Parents International has developed a practical handbook, Digital Navigator, to help teachers strengthen their digital skills and apply practical tools in daily classroom practice. It is complemented by the Digital Compass for parents and the Digital Pathfinder for school leaders. Although not yet available in Dutch, the English versions can be translated using AI tools.

All three handbooks can be downloaded from the ParentHelp Library [here](#).