

## A Guide to Making Positive Choices

The moral compass can be used as a tool to help us with our decision making.



Adapted from the work of Mike Ribble and Gerald Bailey published in Learning and Leading with Technology, 2005

## Using the Compass

*When you encounter a situation, where would you put your decision on the compass?*

First, plot your situation in the appropriate quadrant using these guidelines:



Horizontal axis: Does this situation impact me, the greater community, or both?



Vertical axis: Will the impact of this decision be positive? Does it build community or weaken it? Does it create risk for me or others?

Next, decide what colour your decision points to:

**Green** is used to indicate choices or actions that you would feel comfortable sharing with others.

**Yellow** means "caution". This applies if you are not yet sure if you are making a good choice. Before making a decision, wait until you can get more information.

**Red** indicates that this is a decision or action you would not want others to know about.

## Decision Making

It may not always be easy to determine where your choice falls on the compass. The best decision may not always be obvious because there can be more than one right choice you could make. In the end, you can choose the action that most closely aligns with your personal values.

Questions you might ask to help guide you:

- "How do I feel about this?"
- "What are the rules, permissions, or laws around this?"
- "Are there ethical or moral considerations?"
- "What are the risks to your child and/or community?"

You can discuss these questions with your child when he or she needs to make a big decision. Guide your child through using the compass to work through the situation.

### Helping Children Make Healthy Choices

It's very important to listen to our children and hear what they have to say about their decision making strategies. Here are some things you could help your child pay attention to when making choices and can provide insight into why we might be choosing a certain action or behaviour:

- Is this decision/action going to hurt anyone?
- Does this decision/action help anyone?
- Do I trust this person? Is this person looking after my well-being?
- Are there other options that will give the same or better outcome without hurting myself or others?

Children are more likely to follow through with a decision if they understand the reasons behind why they should make that choice.