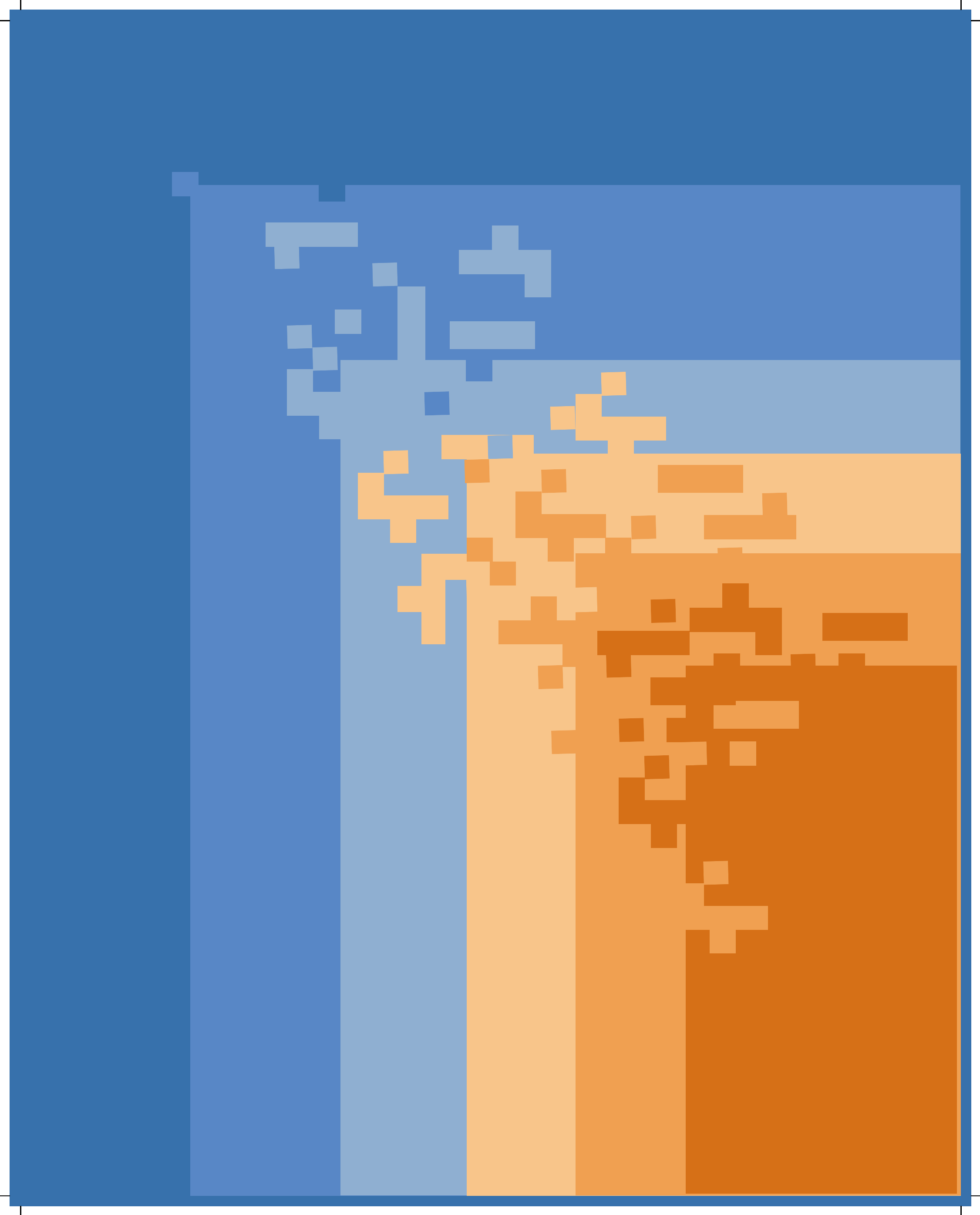# Presenting the Framework

Power-Up:
Values at the Heart of Digital Citizenship

Power Up

BRILLIANT STARS
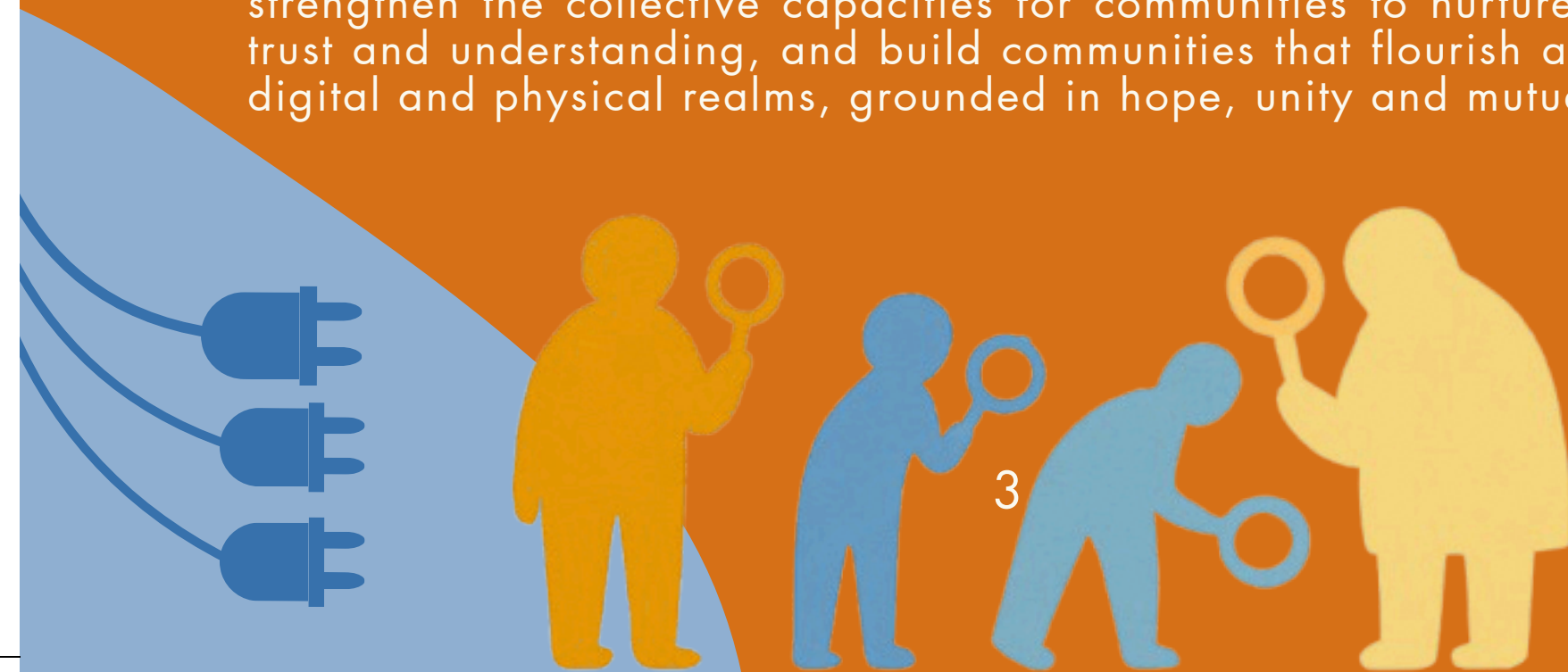INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

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Introducing the Power-Up Framework

The digital world holds extraordinary promise for expanding human connection, sharing knowledge, and building communities grounded in dignity, justice, and care. Yet this same space presents complex challenges, from the prevalence of misinformation and overconsumption to fragmented human connections and the erosion of trust.

Power-Up recognises that digital education must reach beyond technical proficiency or age-based safety guidelines. Instead, it seeks to nurture the values-led capabilities individuals need to both develop themselves, through discernment, wisdom and integrity, and to contribute meaningfully to their communities. This dual responsibility acknowledges that individual actions continually shape collective spaces, and that healthy communities in turn sustain and enable individual flourishing.
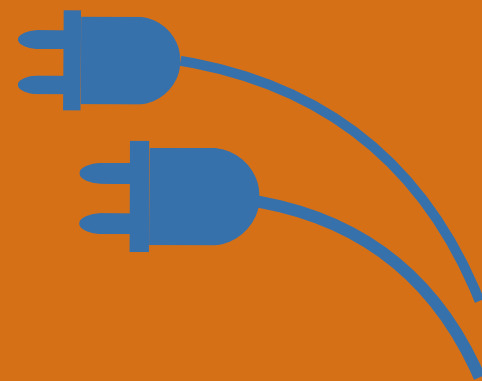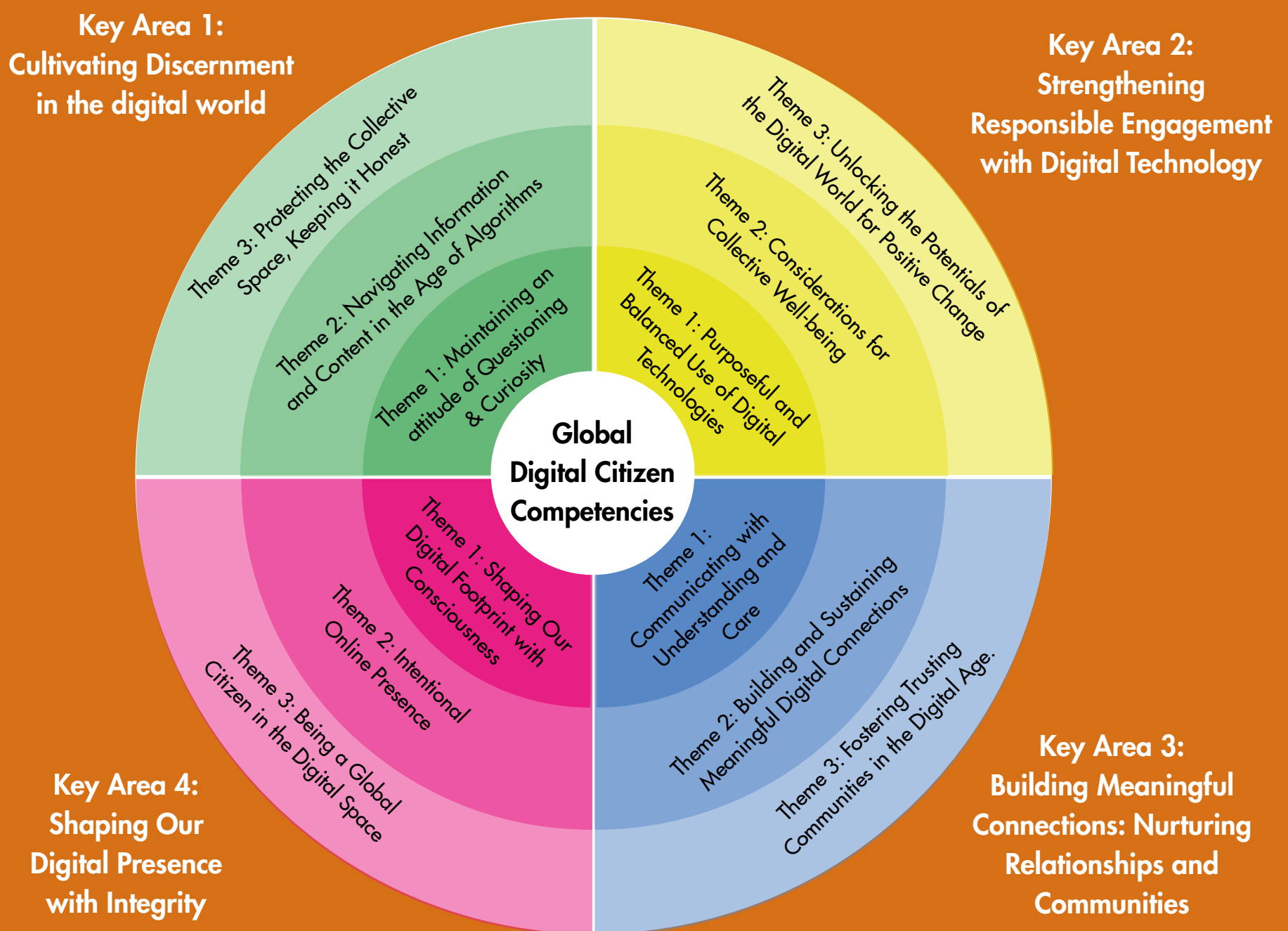
Rather than defining digital citizenship merely as risk avoidance or the safeguarding of individual rights, Power-Up envisions the digital realm as a space of potential and collective progress. The framework centres on cultivating capabilities that enable people not only to navigate digital spaces safely but to take responsibility for shaping them, acting with integrity, nurturing bonds of trust and understanding, and advancing the flourishing of their communities toward the betterment of society and the unfolding of a just and unified world.

While many existing frameworks rightly focus on protection and responsible use, Power-Up broadens this vision. It seeks to empower individuals' capacities to act with integrity and discernment, to strengthen the collective capacities for communities to nurture bonds of trust and understanding, and build communities that flourish across both digital and physical realms, grounded in hope, unity and mutual care.

A Framework of Four Key Areas

At the heart of Power-Up lie four interconnected Key Areas, each capturing an essential dimension of digital citizenship as a relational, ethical, and civic practice:

Key Area 1:
Cultivating Discernment in the digital world

Key Area 2:
Strengthening Responsible Engagement with Digital Technology

Key Area 4:
Shaping Our Digital Presence with Integrity

Key Area 3:
Building Meaningful Connections: Nurturing Relationships and Communities

Global Digital Citizen Competencies

Theme 3: Protecting the Collective Space, Keeping it Honest

Theme 2: Navigating Information and Content in the Age of Algorithms

Theme 1: Maintaining an attitude of Questioning & Curiosity

Theme 3: Unlocking the Potentials of the Digital World for Positive Change

Theme 2: Considerations for Collective Well-being

Theme 1: Purposeful and Balanced Use of Digital Technologies

Theme 1: Shaping Our Digital Footprint with Consciousness

Theme 2: Intentional Online Presence

Theme 3: Being a Global Citizen in the Digital Space

Theme 1: Communicating with Understanding and Care

Theme 2: Building and Sustaining Meaningful Digital Connections

Theme 3: Fostering Trusting Communities in the Digital Age.
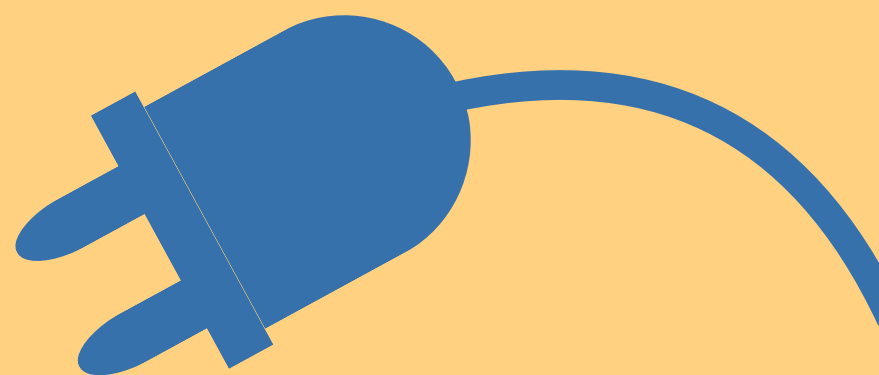
1. Cultivating Discernment in the Digital World

In an age shaped by overwhelming information flows and curated realities, discernment has become a foundational digital capacity. It goes beyond merely spotting misinformation to encompass critical thinking, curiosity, and integrity in engaging with digital knowledge. Developing discernment empowers individuals and communities to uphold truth, expand understanding, and build trust-centred digital environments where unity can flourish.

This Key Area helps individuals navigate the abundance of information online and reflect deeply on the nature and quality of the knowledge they encounter. It fosters habits of thoughtful participation, ensuring that digital citizens engage critically yet constructively with the world around them, guided by the pursuit of truth and understanding.

Theme 1: The Power of Questioning

Discernment begins with the courage to question. This theme nurtures curiosity as a core habit, encouraging individuals to look beyond appearances and explore the origins, purposes, and trustworthiness of the information they encounter. It invites a posture of inquiry and reflection, recognising that digital content comes from diverse sources and carries different intentions and perspectives. By actively questioning where information comes from, who created it, and for what purpose, individuals cultivate habits of critical thinking and purposeful engagement. It fosters practical strategies for evaluating digital content, helping individuals develop personal approaches for assessing usefulness and trustworthiness.

Theme 2: Navigating Information and Content in the Age of Algorithms

Digital citizens live in an environment where algorithms profoundly shape what we see and how we understand the world. This theme cultivates awareness that digital experiences are curated by invisible systems that filter, prioritise, and amplify content based on programmed criteria. It helps individuals recognise that access to information is not neutral and that algorithms can both broaden and limit perspectives. This theme encourages individuals to question which voices or views might be missing from their digital environment and to reflect on how algorithmic curation can reinforce bias or create echo chambers. By building awareness and agency, individuals learn to navigate these systems in ways that align with their values, actively seeking diverse perspectives and engaging in ethical digital practices.

Theme 3: Protecting the Collective Space, Keeping it Honest

Discernment ultimately serves not only personal understanding but the collective good. This theme highlights the significant influence of digital spaces on societal unity and trust. It explores how a lack of discernment can contribute to polarisation, misinformation, and erosion of community cohesion, while applied discernment helps foster environments where honesty, integrity, and hope can thrive. This theme calls individuals to recognise their collective responsibility in maintaining truthful, trustworthy digital spaces. It invites reflection on how digital infrastructures and content shape perceptions and behaviours, encouraging digital citizens to act with wisdom and protect spaces where respectful dialogue and shared understanding can flourish.

2. Strengthening Responsible Engagement with Digital Technology

As digital technologies weave into every facet of life, the goal must shift from merely avoiding harm to cultivating moderation, ethical agency, and purposefulness in digital habits. Responsible engagement means aligning one's digital actions with personal and collective well-being, transforming technology into a tool for human flourishing rather than passive consumption.

This Key Area explores how individuals can use digital technologies intentionally, supporting physical and socio-emotional health while considering the impacts of their digital behaviours on others. It also invites individuals to leverage digital tools for meaningful social action, contributing positively to collective progress and community well-being. An agentic digital citizen is proactive, reflective, and motivated by a sense of purpose, seeing themselves as capable of influencing both their environment and the broader digital landscape.

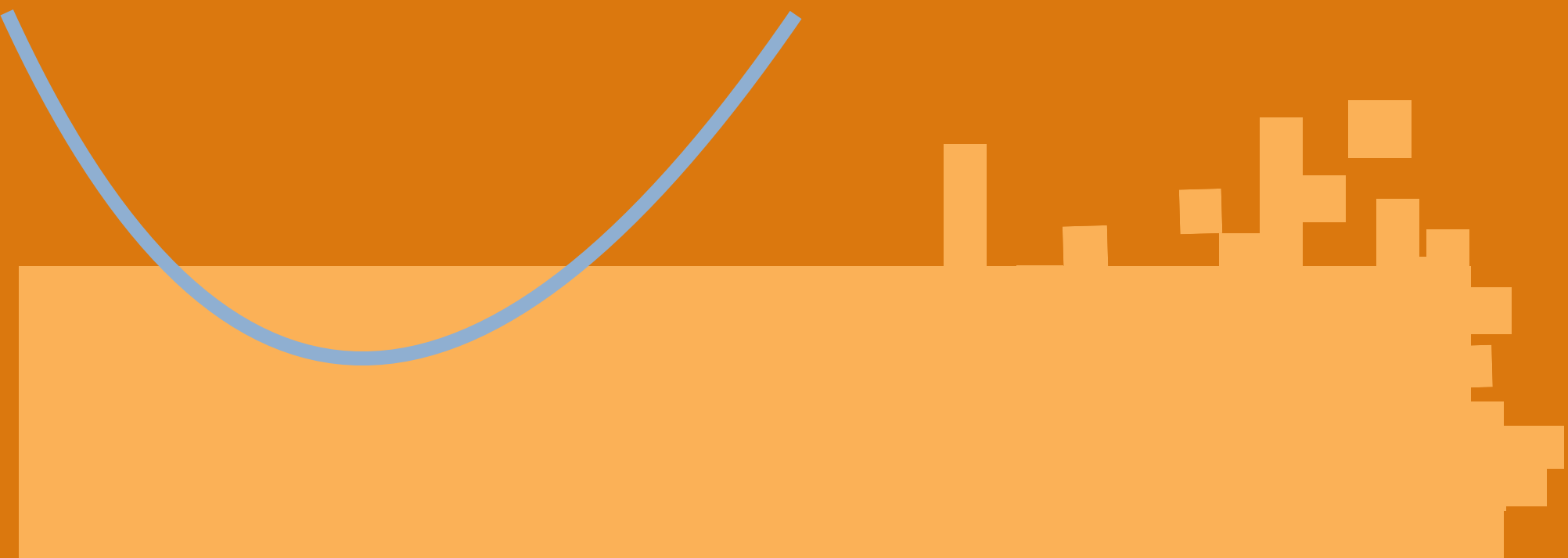## Theme 1: Purposeful and Balanced Use of Digital Technologies

This theme emphasises the importance of moderation and intentionality in digital habits. It explores how individuals can reflect on the purpose behind their technology use, recognising both the benefits and risks to their physical, emotional, and mental well-being. It calls for cultivating self-awareness, discipline, and the capacity to align digital habits with higher personal and collective aims.

Theme 2: Considerations for Collective Well-being

Our well-being is intimately linked with that of others, especially in shared digital spaces. This theme highlights how every digital action — what we share, how we engage, whose voices we amplify — shapes the collective environment. It nurtures an understanding of respect, inclusion, and relational sensitivity as essential components of digital citizenship, helping individuals ensure that their digital behaviours contribute to communities where trust, dignity, and belonging flourish.

Theme 3: Unlocking the Potentials of the Digital World for Positive Change

This theme explores the transformative possibilities of digital technologies when used with intention and hope. It encourages individuals to see themselves as agents of change, capable of leveraging digital tools to raise awareness, mobilise communities, and inspire action for social good. It nurtures skills for envisioning and initiating digital projects that contribute to justice, sustainability, and collective well-being.

Digital platforms have transformed how we connect, making it essential to nurture the capacities for relational understanding, trust-building, and inclusive belonging. This Key Area encourages individuals to move beyond transactional exchanges toward deeper, authentic connections that sustain both personal relationships and broader communities.

Power-Up focuses on equipping individuals to navigate digital interactions thoughtfully, ensuring that communication fosters mutual understanding, dignity, and unity. By strengthening these capacities, digital citizens can cultivate communities that honour diversity, promote belonging, and uphold the oneness of humanity. Meaningful connection becomes not merely an outcome but a conscious practice of building relationships rooted in respect, empathy, and shared purpose.

3.Building meanigful connections

Theme 1: Communicating with Understanding and Care

This theme explores how digital technologies shape the way we express and interpret meaning. It nurtures clarity, intentionality, and empathy in digital communication, helping individuals choose words, tone, timing, and platforms in ways that promote understanding, trust, and respect. It empowers individuals to approach digital conversations as opportunities to build bridges rather than create divides.

Theme 2: Building and Sustaining Meaningful Digital Connections

Beyond individual exchanges, this theme focuses on cultivating relationships that endure and grow. It explores qualities such as trust, kindness, and mutual respect, helping individuals reflect on how their digital interactions either strengthen or weaken meaningful connections. It equips individuals with strategies for fostering authentic bonds, ensuring digital spaces support relationships grounded in dignity and mutual care.

Theme 3: Fostering Trusting Communities in the Digital Age

Communities (digital, physical, or hybrid) thrive when members feel a sense of belonging, purpose, and unity. This theme examines how digital tools can be harnessed to build inclusive, resilient communities that honour diversity and collective well-being. It encourages individuals to contribute actively to shaping spaces where meaningful connections and the oneness of humanity become lived realities.

4. Shaping Our Digital Presence with Integrity

Every action taken in digital spaces leaves a mark—a footprint that reflects who we are and shapes the shared digital environments we all inhabit. This Key Area emphasises awareness, accountability, and global citizenship, urging individuals to consider how their digital presence aligns with the values they uphold in physical life.

Rather than viewing digital footprints merely as technical traces to be managed, Power-Up frames digital presence as a trust: a living expression of values, principles, and shared responsibility. Individuals are invited to see their online actions as opportunities to contribute to a more just, unified, and interconnected global community, elevating digital engagement into a practice of global citizenship.
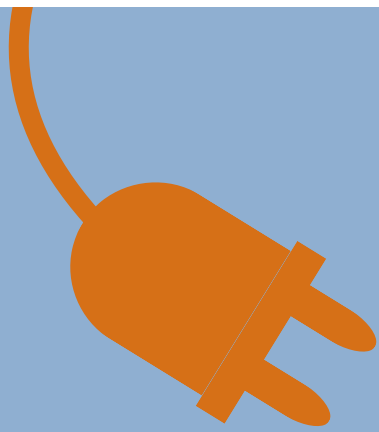
This Key Area encourages individuals to reflect on how their digital footprints and online presence are created and to engage intentionally, recognising their role as both digital and global citizens contributing to a world in which dignity, truthfulness, and unity prevail.

Theme 1: Shaping Our Digital Footprint with Consciousness

This theme explores how digital footprints are created—through intentional choices and unintentional traces. It nurtures awareness of how personal data and online actions form lasting records, influencing how individuals are perceived and how algorithms shape their digital experiences. It empowers individuals to act consciously, balancing privacy with authenticity, and aligning their digital trail with their values.

Theme 2: Intentional Online Presence

An online presence extends beyond profiles and posts; it is an expression of identity and values. This theme encourages individuals to reflect on how their digital presence represents them, influences relationships, and contributes to the broader digital culture. It invites individuals to shape their presence purposefully, ensuring it fosters respect, inclusion, and meaningful engagement.

Theme 3: Being a Global Citizen in the Digital Space

Digital spaces transcend national borders, offering unprecedented opportunities for global connection and shared action. This theme explores how individuals, as both digital and global citizens, can engage in ways that promote justice, unity, and collective well-being. It calls individuals to recognise their power to shape global narratives and relationships through thoughtful digital engagement, building a world that honours the dignity of all.

Taken together, these four Key Areas form a holistic framework for nurturing the ethical, relational, and civic dimensions of digital life. They reflect Power-Up's conviction that digital competencies are far more than technical skills, they are means through which individuals can participate in building a world founded on justice, unity, and the well-being of all. By recognising our shared responsibility to shape digital spaces as environments of truth, trust, and collective progress, Power-Up channels the transformative power of technology toward the realisation of humanity's highest aspirations.

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