

Get Connected - Are you my friend?

Teachers Notes

Main focus of activity:

- To understand the scale of social networking in society.

Learning objectives:

- To understand some of the issues facing society through the increased use of social networking.
- To be aware of the dangers faced when using social networking and how to minimise them.

Links to curriculum aims:

- **Citizenship:** To recognize how their behaviour affects other people.
- **Citizenship:** To recognise choices they can make, and recognise the difference between right and wrong.
- **Citizenship:** Develop a sound knowledge and understanding of the role of law in our society and how laws are shaped and enforced.

Activity outline: Discussion and background

- Use the 15 – Get Connected – Are you my friend? resource page

Discuss the rise in social networking – check understanding of what it is. Discuss social networking sites they may use and think about intended market – adult, child etc.:

- Habbo Hotel, Club Penguin, Moshi Monsters – children
- Facebook, MySpace, YouTube, Twitter – teens and adults

Check their understanding of the dangers of accessing sites they are not the intended market for – relate to Facebook advertising – if incorrect date of birth entered, advertising is targeted at what it thinks is the users age – inappropriate adverts for ‘singles’ or ‘gambling’ sites.

Discuss Cyberbullying and the rise in criminal charges being brought against people using social networking sites – look at some of the press articles available to highlight.

Access the safety resources on LGfL – UsOnline. Work through the resources – either individually or as a class.

Ensure the children are aware of the simple rules for staying safe online and know how to report anything that makes them feel uncomfortable.

Possible Activities:

Activity 1: Work through the online safety materials from Us Online available from LGfL content grid.

Activity 2: Design an information booklet for a name audience (e.g. children, parents etc. explain the dangers and how to stay safe online.)

Activity 3: Analyse and present data from homework survey on internet usage.

Plenary:

Create a 'Top 5' reasons social networking is a good thing.

Create a 'Top 5' reasons social networking is a bad thing.

Create a class 'Safe Internet Use' guide if you don't already have one.

Possible Extension/independent or homework learning activity:

Survey of internet use – carry out a weeklong internet diary activity cataloguing sites visited and for how long. If possible include another family member in the survey. Gather data together – does it hold with the figure quoted in the text resource?

Videos and Web Links:

- Link to Teacher Notes (15 – Get Connected – Are you my Friend? Teacher Notes)
- Articles on social networking criminal activity:
 - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-20851797>
 - <http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/uk-world-news/police-forces-swamped-with-rising-number-1508159>
 - <http://metro.co.uk/2012/12/27/social-networking-related-crimes-increase-780-per-cent-in-four-years-3330471/>
- Go through the esafety resources on the LGfL content grid - UsOnline:
<http://www.lgfl.net/curriculum-resources/Pages/us-online.aspx>
- BBC Webwise - Social Networking: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/webwise/courses/social-media-basics/>