

1 About this unit

UNIT SUMMARY

In this unit, children will learn how we can minimise the risks of using social networking sites. They will learn that most popular networking sites have age restrictions which should be adhered to. They will then discuss ways of reducing the risks when using social networking sites. Finally, they will develop a personal memo to remind them how to minimise these risks.

REPORTING ROUTES

In Year 6, children should know a range of ways to report concerns and inappropriate behaviour through:

- talking to a trusted adult
- calling Childline (0800 1111)
- using reporting buttons within websites, games and apps
- clicking the CEOP button.

These points should be re-emphasised in any teaching and learning where children are working online.

If any safeguarding issues or concerns arise during this unit, you must follow your School Safeguarding Policy.

ONLINE SAFETY FOCUS

In this unit, children will:

- understand that most online sites and apps require an account holder to be a minimum of 13 years old
- understand that they should check and adhere to the age restrictions of a site or app
- understand why age restrictions apply to online communication tools
- develop resilience to online behaviour and influences in an unfamiliar setting
- learn how to use appropriate social networking sites safely.

ENGAGING PARENTS AND CARERS

- In this unit, children will use their personal memo to explain to their grown-ups at home the key ways to minimise risks when using social networking sites.
- Consider running a parent session to discuss the use of social networking sites, with particular reference to those sites that are suitable and those that are not.
- Consider sharing web links with parents and carers, which provide guidance on social networking and children (see *Useful links*).

TEACHER KNOWLEDGE

- This lesson is designed to prepare children for the safe use of social networking sites.
- Many social media sites and apps, such as Instagram and Facebook, have an age rating of 13+ and although primary school children should not be using these, many still do. It is therefore important to provide children with the skills to work on these sites as safely as possible.
- The COPPA Law (Children's Online Privacy Protection Rule Act) states that companies are not allowed to collect and store information about or share with third parties / advertise to children under the age of 13. This is US Federal Law.

CROSS-CURRICULAR LINKS

Computing

Use technology safely and respectfully, keeping personal information private; identify where to go for help and support when they have concerns about content or contact on the internet or other online technologies.

2 Getting ready

ONLINE SAFETY PRINCIPLES

Think about how you can embed the online safety learning and outcomes from this unit within your whole-school online safety strategy through:

- whole-school e-team engagement
- online safety displays
- use of a website online safety area
- Twitter tweets. For example: 'This half term our Year 6 pupils are learning about social networking sites and which are appropriate for their age range.'
- a school newsletter. You may wish to paste the following advisory text for parents and carers into your school newsletter, or send home in book bags (see editable *Newsletter text* on My Rising Stars): 'This half term, Year 6 pupils have been learning about social networking sites and the age restrictions for these. Sites such as Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat all have age limits of 13+ so children should not be accessing these. Children have been asked to discuss the key rules for

staying safe when using social networking sites with their grown-ups at home. Please contact the school if you have any concerns about children accessing inappropriate social media sites and apps.'

THINGS YOU NEED

- Interactive whiteboard
- Large sheets of paper (one per table/group)
- Credit-card sized pieces of card (one per pupil)
- Variety of coloured pens, pencils and highlighters

THINGS TO DO

- Familiarise yourself with the steps of this activity before running this online safety session.
- Familiarise yourself with the *Safer social networking* PowerPoint presentation to ensure you are clear about all the safeguarding issues raised.



MY RISING STARS RESOURCES

- *Safer social networking* (.ppt)



OTHER RISING STARS RESOURCES

- Links can be made here with *Switched on Online Safety Unit 5.2 – We are responsible for our online actions*.



INCLUSION/THINGS TO CONSIDER

- Some children may not have access to technology at home and so may not be aware of different ways people communicate online. Reinforce that keeping information safe and staying alert to potential problems are skills as valuable in real life as they are online.
- If you become aware that any children are using inappropriate social networking sites such as Facebook or Instagram, follow your School Safeguarding Policy.



USEFUL LINKS

- Childnet on social networking: www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers/hot-topics/social-networking
- Internet matters – social networking for children: www.internetmatters.org/hub/news-blogs/social-media-networks-made-for-kids/
- English national Opera: 'Can I be your friend?' Interesting take on how odd our online lives are (teachers only): www.youtube.com/watch?v=aDycZH0CA4I

3 Running the lesson



Resources

- Large sheets of paper
- *Safer social networking* (PowerPoint presentation)
- Credit-card sized pieces of card
- Variety of coloured pens, pencils and highlighters

Possible outcomes

- A class display or presentation summarising how to stay safe when using social networking sites.

Step 1: Introducing the session

- Explain to the children that in this online safety session they are going to find out how to be safer when using social networking sites.
- Explain that more options for meeting people online are available to us as we get older. It is important we remember to apply our online safety skills to new experiences.

Step 2: Finding out about social networking sites

- Ask children what they know about online social networking. What does this term mean? What does social networking allow you to do? Highlight the positives here, such as staying in touch with people, sharing ideas and photos.
- Ask if any of the children have any experience of using social networking sites. (Use this discussion as an opportunity to gauge if any children have been using apps that are inappropriate for their age.) Explain to the children that many popular social networking sites and apps require an account holder to be a minimum of 13 years old. Give some examples of these sites: Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat.
- Ask the children to discuss possible reasons for this rule, e.g. need to have a credit card, inappropriate language or images for younger people, meeting people who are much older. Explain that a key reason for this is a law that states companies are not allowed to store information about or advertise to under 13s.
- Explain that children under the age of 13 can be more trusting and not have all the skills they need to stay safe. This makes them vulnerable to online scams and unwanted attention and influences from strangers.

Step 3: Using social networking sites safely

- Split children into groups. Give each group a large sheet of paper. Ask children to come up with ideas for what they can do to minimise the online safety risks of using social networking sites. They should write these ideas down on the sheet.

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- Bring the class back together and ask groups to volunteer their ideas to the class. Scribe these on a large piece of paper, away from the interactive whiteboard.
- Now project the *Safer social networking* PowerPoint presentation onto the interactive whiteboard. Compare each point with the suggestions made by the children. Did the children miss any key concepts? Spend some time discussing any points that the children missed and why these are important.
- Ask children to give examples of personal information they should not share when using social networking sites. For example, date of birth, telephone number, any images that identify where they live or go to school.
- Now spend some time discussing profile settings and how these can be used to limit who can see your profile (for example, setting a profile to private or friends only, or removing your profile from a public search). Ask the children how these settings can reduce the risk of using social networking sites.
- Now talk about the use of reporting buttons or features of networking sites that allow a user to report abuse or other inappropriate behaviour. Discuss the possible consequences of inappropriate behaviour on social networking sites: people might block you, you could get into trouble with your school, friends and parents, and your account might get cancelled. In extreme cases, the networking service might refer the complaint to the police.
- Ask the children whether they think that using social networking sites can ever be completely free from risk. Give them time to consider this question within their groups and then ask them to share their ideas with the rest of the class.

Step 4: Creating a personal social networking message

- Hand out the credit-card sized pieces of card to the children. Explain that they are going to create a personal business card that lists the key messages for being a safe social networker. This card should be kept in their bag or wallet and be a quick reminder of how to reduce the risks when using social networks as they move to KS3.
- Give children time to create their cards. Remind them to place them somewhere safe.

Step 5: Summing up

- Remind children that social networking sites have age restrictions which we must stick to. Social networking sites pose a number of safety risks but we can minimise these risks by not sharing personal information, managing our personal settings and understanding how to report inappropriate behaviour.

4 Taking it further

- Ask the children to take their cards home and use them as a prompt to explain to their grown-ups the key rules for staying safe when using social networking sites. Were their grown-ups aware of all the rules?
- If children have a phone or tablet, encourage them to take a photo of the card so it is always on their device.