

Theme:

Let's Create a Better Internet Together.

Background Information:

This theme was identified by the INSAFE network of Awareness Centres as highly relevant in today's ever changing technologically-capable society. This year, children and young people are being encouraged to think about how their behaviour and actions can contribute to making the internet a better place. They are encouraged to celebrate the positive aspects of the internet, and think about what more can be done by themselves, adults and the internet industry to continue to make things better.

Slide 1:

This assembly is for Safer Internet Day.

Safer Internet Day in the UK is run by the UK Safer Internet Centre – made up of Childnet International, the South West Grid for Learning and the Internet Watch Foundation. This year's theme is, 'Let's Create a Better Internet Together.'

Today we are going to be thinking about the theme and see how we can create a better internet. We'll be looking at what you do online, and what you might be creating online. We'll also explore your digital footprint and how what you do can contribute to making the internet a better, fun and more positive place.

Slide 2:

I am sure that a lot of you in this room are using some, maybe even all of these services to create and share your own content. Which sites and services do you use to share your own content? Does anyone use any different ones to those on screen? **(Ask for the audience to share the sites they use).**

Slide 3:

Have any of you created your own music and put it online? Has anyone created an app? Or created a game or website? **(You could always ask volunteers to share a bit about their creations).**

I think we have established that the internet can be a space that allows us to be creative. Maybe one of you will be the next big internet sensation or making your million creating a brilliant app that makes all our lives a little easier.

Slide 4:

However, today we need to think about how we can use this creativity to make the internet a better place. How do you think the internet could be better?

Ask the audience for ideas – prompt them with should it be safer? Should there be more things to do? How can we prevent cyberbullying? Is everything online nice?

Slide 5:

You had some great suggestions, and I think it is important that we recognise that we all have a responsibility in creating a better internet in the future. One way to do this is by creating a positive footprint online.

Your digital footprint is something you are creating every day, it's the mark you leave behind when using the internet and can shape your online reputation. Your digital footprints can be positive or negative and shape how people see you now or in the future.

Slide 6:

Here are a few things to think about when it comes to creating a positive online footprint.

Think about how you behave online, are you treating others with respect? Are you proud of all of your online content? If I was to bring up your Facebook or Twitter profile and show it on this screen to all of the staff would you be happy with them seeing your content or would you be embarrassed or concerned? Do you know how to report if you see something offensive or someone be abusive online?

It's also really important you understand that there are laws that apply to the online world. When it comes to downloading films and music are you choosing to do so legally? Also it is important to think about how you interact online and who you are interacting with.

Slide 7:

I am going to finish by leaving you with this short checklist so that you can reflect on what you are going to do to create a better internet.

- Report anything that worries or upsets you online
- Be aware of the laws relating to your online behaviour
- Think before you post
- Make sure you leave a positive digital footprint – think back to all of the wonderful things you shared with us at the beginning of this presentation. It is these things that will contribute to a better internet in the future.

Find out more about creating a better internet by visiting the UK Safer internet centre website.