

Safer Internet Day 2014

Quick Classroom Activities

Secondary

You have selected activities for secondary aged pupils. Below you will find quick activities to accompany our in depth lesson plan to support the theme of 'Let's Create a Better Internet Together'.

1. How has the internet made things better?

The internet provides a wide range of opportunities for young people, in terms of communicating, providing entertainment, sourcing information and creating content.

Discuss with your pupils how the internet has made life better (e.g. convenience, access to information, freedom of speech, online commerce). How many different ways can they think of that the internet has improved their lives or the lives of others, and can they give practical examples/services that demonstrate this?

Split the class into groups of 3 or 4 to discuss these different ways. You could assign one particular way to each group to then think of examples that demonstrate this.

Allow the pupils chance to feedback their ideas. Does everyone agree with the examples they have suggested?

There may be certain sites/services mentioned that have been used in both positive and negative ways, and this provides a great opportunity to discuss with the pupils the reasons behind this. One important aspect to consider is the behaviour of users of the site/service and how everyone as an individual has a part to play in using these services positively. These discussions may feed into the next activity.

2. What can I do to make it better?

Remind pupils that their online activity forms their digital footprint; the trail of content and information that others can find out about them online. It is important for them to remember that their conduct plays a big part in how others may perceive them online. Being perceived positively could provide them with opportunities in the future, particularly when it comes to pursuing further education or job hunting.

Using the worksheet 'What Can I Do?' encourage your pupils to think about what they can do as individuals to make a better internet (e.g. showing respect online, respecting copyright when downloading/uploading content, sharing positive content, using social networks to teach others or pass on their skills).

Pupils may come up with ideas related to content or skills they can share online (e.g. creating an app/website/game/video/music/art etc), which can feed into the activities in the in depth lesson plan.

3. Speedy debate

Split the class in half; with one side arguing for the following motion, and the other side arguing against it:

Websites and services that allow you to communicate anonymously have made the internet a better place.

Encourage the pupils to come up with relevant examples to back up their arguments.

I can help make a better internet by...

