

### Target audience

Learners aged 11-14

### Timing

60 minutes

### Resources

Interactive whiteboard and appendices

### Lesson Aim

To explore the choices learners have to make online with a focus on the meaning of consent and how we give and receive it online.

### Lesson Outcomes

Learners will be able to:

- Recognise the importance of having a choice, and giving others a choice online
- Explore ways to ask, gain and deny consent online

### Preparation

- Print Appendix 1 and cut up for either individual use or small groups (2-3 young people)
- Print Appendix 2 and stick up around the room
- Print Appendix 3 for either individual use or small groups (2-3 young people)
- Print several copies of Appendix 4 to be distributed amongst the class

### Key vocabulary

Consent, permission, informed choice, compromise

	Activity	Time	Grouping
<b>Starter</b>	<b>It's your choice (Vote and discuss)</b> Quick fire ice-breaker asking learners to think about the things they value most online	10 minutes	Individual
<b>Activity 1</b>	<b>Understanding consent online (Reflect and discuss)</b> Introducing consent as the central theme of the lesson through online examples and creating a definition	10 minutes	Individual
<b>Activity 2</b>	<b>How many ways...? (Fast paced ideas)</b> Considering different ways in which we can ask, give or deny consent	10 minutes	Pairs or small groups
<b>Activity 3</b>	<b>Have your say (Moral compass)</b> A chance to consider whether consent is needed in a variety of scenarios	10 minutes	Individual/ Whole Class
<b>Plenary</b>	<b>Top Tips (Reflection and write)</b> A reflection on the lesson and an opportunity for learners to create their own 5 top tips to consider before posting about themselves and others online <i>(Could also be used as a homework task)</i>	10 minutes	Individual
<b>Extension</b>	<b>Going Viral (Debate)</b> Debating for and against real-life examples of when photos and videos have been shared online without someone's consent and have gone viral	Extension time	Whole Class

<b>Starter</b>	<b>It's your choice (Vote and discuss)</b>
<b>Resources</b>	<b>n/a</b>

**It's your choice:** ask learners to choose one of the two options from the following questions by raising their hands:

- Snapchat or Instagram
- Gaming or Netflix
- Spotify or Pinterest
- Posting a status or photo
- WhatsApp or Facebook messenger
- Memes or funny videos
- No Wi-Fi for a week or no friends for a month
- Go online for 24 hours straight or detox for 24 hours
- Have advertisements targeted to you or no advertisements at all
- Choice or no choice

It's nice to be given a choice, so we're able to choose what we would like and feel empowered. But what happens when we aren't given a choice?

Discuss with the group the following questions:

- **Can you think of any examples of when it's felt as though you haven't been given a choice online?**
- **What happened?**
- **How did it make you feel?**

<b>Activity 1</b>	<b>Understanding consent online (Reflect and discuss)</b>
<b>Resources</b>	<b>Whiteboard</b>

Read out or display on the board the following scenarios and ask the group to reflect silently on how each example is linked.

1. A candid photo was taken of Sonny by someone in his class when he was eating lunch and it has been shared online
2. Lola's friend has added her into a big group chat with lots of other people from different schools
3. Jo has been captured in the background of a livestreaming video
4. Kyle has been tagged in an embarrassing meme
5. Anita just noticed an embarrassing baby photo of herself on her Dad's social media account

Ask the group:

- **Has anyone been able to make the link?** – these situations have all happened without someone's permission/consent

**What is consent? Can we come up with our own definition?**

Ask a group write a class definition or pair definitions for consent.

Then share the following definition:

*Consent - Permission for something to happen or agreement to do something. (Oxford Dictionary)*

Ask the group:

- **Do you think asking for consent online is important? Why?**
- **Do you think that we always need to ask for consent before posting something online?**

Online consent is important as it:

- ▶ can protect privacy
- ▶ prevent upsetting or offending someone
- ▶ is part of being a good friend

## Activity 2

## How many ways...? (Fast paced ideas)

### Resources

### Appendix 1

This fast-paced exercise allows learners to think about ways in which they can ask for, give, or deny consent online. These can be both verbal and non-verbal such as saying, "I don't want you to post that picture of me" or nodding your agreement to be added to a Snapchat group.

Using [Appendix 1](#), ask the learners to come up with as many different ways of asking for, giving and denying consent online as they can. Allow the groups five minutes on a timer to complete the task or come up with as many ideas as possible in that time.

You can group learners in 2 ways:

**Option 1** - split the learners into 3 groups and ask each group to focus on one of the sheets in [Appendix 1](#).

**Option 2** - split the learners into small groups or pairs and ask them to complete all sheets on [Appendix 1](#) with different timers for each sheet.

When the learners have completed the activity go around the groups/pairs asking them to feedback one idea at a time. You might wish to write these out on the board for everyone to see.

Explain to the group that we can often feel pressured to share something online and sometimes that can be done without much thought to what is being shared and who it might be about. Sometimes asking for consent or saying no to someone can feel awkward but there are so many different ways in which we can do it. We should all feel more confident in asking, saying yes or no, and reading what other people are communicating to us about their choices.

## Activity 3

## Have your say (Moral compass)

### Resources

### Appendix 2

Print out the signs from [Appendix 2](#) and stick them around the room. Ask the learners to stand in the middle and explain that when you read out one of the scenarios they have to move and stand next to the sign which they feel is the right decision.

At every change get feedback from each group, asking learners to explain why they made their decision.

- You want to add your close friend to a group chat
- You take a funny picture of your neighbor's dog and want to post it online
- You've just got a new boyfriend/girlfriend and want to change your relationship status
- You see someone asleep on the bus and want to take a photo and share it online
- You want to share your location and tag your friends
- You find an old photo of you and your sibling and want to share it online
- You want to wish your friend happy birthday by posting on their social media account
- You're sent a photo of yourself and a friend and you look really good in it. Your friend doesn't but you want to post it online anyway.
- You're on your holidays with your family and want to share a photo and tag them in it along with sharing the place you are staying

**NB** – This activity has been designed for learners to explore where the boundaries for consent lie for them, within their own friendships, families and communities. Learners may see the situations very differently and this discussion should help them to explore their own moral compass.

## Plenary

## Top Tips (Reflection and write)

## Resources

## Appendix 3

This lesson has been about looking at how we can ask for, give, and deny consent.

Hand each learner a sheet from [Appendix 3](#) - It's time to reflect on what they have learnt about consent and think ahead to how they will make a change as a result of the lesson. Their task is to create their own 5 top tips to consider before posting about themselves and others online.

## Extension

## Going viral debate

## Resources

## Appendix 4

This activity asks learners to debate examples of when something has accidentally gone viral online.

Split the group in the middle and hand each side the same news article from [Appendix 4](#). Explain that one side will be arguing

**'FOR'**- it's positive that this went viral. Consent didn't need to be gained.

**'AGAINST'**- this shouldn't have gone viral. Consent should have been gained.

Give them a few minutes to read through the article, thinking carefully about what happened, the feelings of the people involved and the consequences of the unconsented post.

*You may wish to read through the examples beforehand and pick out the one which will best suit the learners you are working with.*

How can we ask for permission / consent online?

How can we give permission/consent online?

How can we say no/decline consent?

# Ask for consent



# Sometimes ask for consent

Don't ask  
for consent

I'm not sure

# TOP TIPS FOR POSTING ONLINE

1

3

2

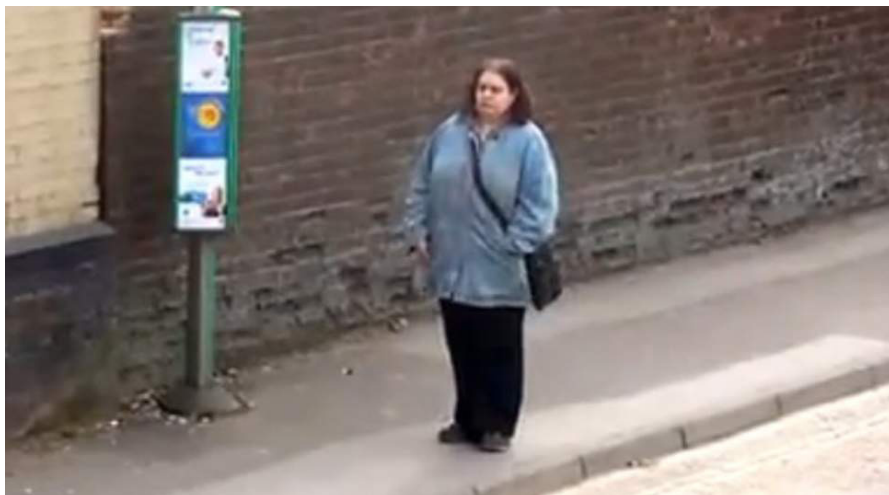
4

5

## Article 1:

# Woman secretly filmed dancing at bus stop wins theatre role

The Independent, 18 September 2013



◀ Ellie Cole star of the 'Eastleigh's Got Talent' viral (YouTube)

Waiting for the bus can be pretty tedious. But a young woman from Eastleigh who decided to pass the time on the pavement by tapping her feet, swaying her hips and dancing to herself can have had no idea it would lead to overnight fame and a role in a stage play.

Ellie Cole was secretly filmed busting a groove as she waited to catch a bus on Bishopstoke Road, Eastleigh. The footage was uploaded to YouTube in April with ABBA's "Dancing Queen" overlaid – and the secretary, 35, who was actually jiving to Alesha Dixon's "Knock Down", became an internet sensation after it was watched by nearly a million people.

The viral, titled "Eastleigh's Got Talent", shows Ms Cole enjoying the music totally oblivious to the fact that she is being filmed. But the three minutes of fame it earned her have led to the former performing arts student being offered a role in new musical AH Men at The Point Theatre, Eastleigh.

The show's writer and director Lynne Paris spotted the clip and decided to cast Ms Cole in the musical on the strength of it. "When I saw

the video at the bus stop I saw an authenticity in Ellie that I knew I could work with to develop her," she said.

"I was staging AH Men in Eastleigh, I noticed Ellie lived in Eastleigh, too. She was dancing at a bus stop, which is exactly the sort of thing I do all the time to everyone's embarrassment.

"I tracked her down through Facebook and invited her to the final rehearsal and did some real time coaching with her that paid off. She was great and gelled with the rest of the AH Men cast straight away.

Ms Cole said: "I find it hard to believe what happened with the video. It's like 'wow, why me?' I'm just a normal everyday person who happens to like dancing at bus stops.

"I have my headphones in every day on the way back from work and I just can't help myself – I just dance."

## Article 2:

# Not all internet fame starts out positively.

The Guardian, 3 November 2014



◀ The picture of Balpreet Kaur which was posted to Reddit in 2012. Photograph: Imgur

Balpreet Kaur's response to her picture being posted on Reddit in 2012. Photograph: Reddit ▶

Aspiring neurosurgeon Balpreet Kaur had no idea her picture had been posted on Reddit until she was told by one of her Facebook friends. The picture, taken without Kaur's knowledge, was uploaded to the site's r/funny subreddit under the headline **"I'm not sure what to conclude from this."** The user was apparently confused that Kaur is a woman with facial hair.

While many may have been upset at the situation, Kaur took a different approach and responded to the thread to explain her position as a baptised Sikh. In doing so, she turned the entire situation on its head, gaining the respect of redditors and shutting the internet bullies down with her calm and reasoned response.

She wrote: "By transcending societal views of beauty, I believe that I can focus more on my actions. My attitude and thoughts and actions have more value in them than my body because I recognize that this body is just going to become ash in the end, so why fuss about it?"

"When I die, no one is going to remember what

Hey, guys. This is Balpreet Kaur, the girl from the picture. I actually didn't know about this until one of my friends told me on Facebook. If the OP wanted a picture, they could have just asked and I could have smiled :) However, I'm not embarrassed or even humiliated by the attention [negative and positive] that this picture is getting because, it's who I am. Yes, I'm a baptised Sikh woman with facial hair. Yes, I realize that my gender is often confused and I look different than most women. However, baptised Sikhs believe in the sacredness of this body - it is a gift that has been given to us by the Divine Being [which is genderless, actually] and, must keep it intact as a submission to the divine will. Just as a child doesn't reject the gift of his/her parents, Sikhs do not reject the body that has been given to us. By crying 'mine, mine' and changing this body-tool, we are essentially living in ego and creating a separateness between ourselves and the divinity within us. By transcending societal views of beauty, I believe that I can focus more on my actions. My attitude and thoughts and actions have more value in them than my body because I recognize that this body is just going to become ash in the end, so why fuss about it? When I die, no one is going to remember what I looked like, heck, my kids will forget my voice, and slowly, all physical memory will fade away. However, my impact and legacy will remain: and, by not focusing on the physical beauty, I have time to cultivate those inner virtues and hopefully, focus my life on creating change and progress for this world in any way I can. So, to me, my face isn't important but the smile and the happiness that lie behind the face are. :) So, if anyone sees me at OSU, please come up and say hello. I appreciate all of the comments here, both positive and less positive because I've gotten a better understanding of myself and others from this. Also, the yoga pants are quite comfortable and the Better Together t-shirt is actually from Interfaith Youth Core, an organization that focuses on storytelling and engagement between different faiths. :) I hope this explains everything a bit more, and I apologize for causing such confusion and uttering anything that hurt anyone.

I looked like, heck, my kids will forget my voice, and slowly, all physical memory will fade away.

"However, my impact and legacy will remain: and, by not focusing on the physical beauty, I have time to cultivate those inner virtues and hopefully, focus my life on creating change and progress for this world in any way I can."

Many people replied thanking her for teaching them more about her faith and many, including the original poster, apologised for any offensive remarks they wrote about her.



## Article 3:

# Reddit user insults Sikh woman over facial hair, response inspires apology

Today, 14 October 2014



On Facebook, support for the Sikh woman whose photograph was initially shared via Reddit as a way to ridicule her has had quite the opposite effect. *Facebook / Today*

A Reddit user who posted a link to a photo of a young Sikh woman with facial hair in Reddit's "funny" thread was met with a torrent of criticism — and an incredibly gracious response from the woman who said the photo was of her. The story has gone viral around the world, Facebook pages are springing up in support of the young woman, who so far has said little other than what she seems to have shared on Reddit.

The person who started it all identified himself "european\_douchebag" on Reddit (but now has deleted his name). He unleashed the furor when he posted the comment "I'm not sure what to make of this" with a link to a photo of the woman, shown standing in a line, checking her phone.

At first, there were some of the typically juvenile comments we've all grown to expect from such juvenile posts. But the tide turned quickly as Redditors harshly chastized "european\_douchebag" — "Don't do this. Don't take pictures of people you think look weird and post them online," posted "baumkramer." And then the woman believed to be the subject of the photo weighed in, not with barbs, but with benevolence, explaining:

Hey, guys. This is Balpreet Kaur, the girl from the picture. I actually didn't know about this until one of my friends told on facebook. If the OP wanted a picture, they could have just asked and I could have smiled :) However, I'm not embarrassed or even humiliated by the attention [negative and positive] that this picture is getting because, it's who I am. Yes, I'm a baptized Sikh woman with facial hair. Yes, I realize that my gender is

often confused and I look different than most women. However, baptized Sikhs believe in the sacredness of this body - it is a gift that has been given to us by the Divine Being [which is genderless, actually] and, must keep it intact as a submission to the divine will."

...By transcending societal views of beauty, I believe that I can focus more on my actions. My attitude and thoughts and actions have more value in them than my body because I recognize that this body is just going to become ash in the end, so why fuss about it? When I die, no one is going to remember what I looked like, heck, my kids will forget my voice, and slowly, all physical memory will fade away. However, my impact and legacy will remain: and, by not focusing on the physical beauty, I have time to cultivate those inner virtues and hopefully, focus my life on creating change and progress for this world in any way I can.

Kaur leveled "european\_douchebag" with her words. And, to his credit, he apologized, a rarity these days on the interwebz.

"Douchebag" is a 20-year-old from Florida, according to the New York Daily News, who said admitted the the initial post was "ignorant."

"I never even thought about how she felt or what she was going through. I really admire her faith," he told the newspaper. (He said he doesn't want his name used, and that's understandable considering the less-than-nice reaction he's received from many around the globe.)

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## Article 4:

# Alex Christopher LaBeouf (#AlexFromTarget)

MakeUseOf.com, 6 April 2015



◀ Alex from Target  
Photo: @chntxl/Twitter

It started as a normal work day for Target employee Alex Christopher LaBeouf. It was November 2, 2014, and the 16-year-old cashier was bagging groceries as usual. But things would soon take a turn for the weird.

Without his knowledge, a customer snapped his photo and posted it on Twitter (along with the caption "YOoooooooooooo"), somehow making him an instant phenomenon among all the teenage girls of the Internet. He was famous by the end of his shift.

The hashtag #AlexFromTarget quickly became a thing, with more than a million mentions in the first 24 hours. And when someone uncovered Alex's Twitter handle (@acl163), he jumped from 144 followers to more than 200,000. (He has over 700,000 followers at the time of this writing.)

A couple of days later, Alex appeared on the Ellen DeGeneres show to discuss his newfound fame.



## Article 5:

# 'Plane Bae' woman apologises to couple for posting their story on Twitter

The Independent, 11 July 2018

◀ © Getty Images



“Every woman has a right to their own story. And to have taken away yours and turned it into my own was wrong on many levels”

A Reddit user who posted a link to a photo of a young woman who went viral after posting a Twitter thread about a couple sitting in front of her on a plane has issued an apology after her actions were criticised as an invasion of privacy.

Rosey Blair's story about two strangers allegedly forming a romantic connection after they were sat next to each other on a flight captivated thousands of people on social media, with Blair documenting every interaction via a series of images and clips.

The couple in the thread have since been identified as former professional footballer Euan Holden and a woman named Helen, who has reportedly been harassed online since the story unfolded and has deleted her social media profiles as a result.

Blair has since published an apology on Twitter, saying that she had not foreseen the “potential exploitative nature” of the results of her actions.

“The last thing I want to do is remove agency and autonomy from another woman,” she wrote.

Addressing Helen directly, Blair added that she hoped she saw her message and apologised for “utilising what could have been a beautiful charming moment among strangers” and turning into her preferred narrative.

“I apologise for taking what should have been a small mundane moment of cheeriness and turning it into something foul,” she continued.

“I apologise for taking away something that I myself value quite a bit - which is sharing one's own story publicly as means to inspire others. What I have done is in no ways inspirational.

“Every woman has a right to her own story. And to have taken away yours and turned it into my own was wrong on many levels.”

The Texas-based actor and writer concluded by offering her “services” to Helen, adding that she would be “humbled” to help her in any way in light of the “over-amplified” story she became an involuntary star in.

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