

Target Audience

Children aged 7-11

Background information on the Safer Internet Day 2020 theme

'Safer Internet Day: Free to be me – exploring identity online.'

This year in the UK, Safer Internet Day will encourage young people to explore how they manage their online identity, and how the internet shapes how they think of themselves and others. We want Safer Internet Day 2020 to celebrate difference and help us work towards creating a truly inclusive internet.

The campaign will focus on what makes up your online identity – such as the facts or characteristics about you, how others perceive and interact with you, as well as how online services identify you. It will also look at how offline stereotypes and discrimination are challenged or reinforced online.

We will look at whether the internet allows young people to experiment and express themselves, or if they feel limited in who they can be online. By opening up conversations around online identity, we aim to inspire young people to support each other in being who they want to be.



Slide 1

Today is Safer Internet Day! (*If applicable*). It's a day when we celebrate all of the great things about being online and remind ourselves how we can stay safe. In this assembly we are going to focus on one part of life online. Let's see if you can work out what it's going to be.



Slide 2

I'm going to give you 30 seconds to turn to the person next to you and find out 3 new things about them. It could be a hobby they enjoy, an interest, something they are really good at or even somewhere special they have been or something they have done.

Allow 30 seconds to pass.

Who would like to put their hand up and share with me one thing they learnt about their partner?

Take 5-10 answers.

It's brilliant to hear so many interesting and special things about all of you. It is great to hear about how 'unique' everyone is. Can anyone explain what the word **unique** means?

Take some answers.

'Unique' means that although we all have similarities, like going to this school/youth setting (*choose as applicable*), we're all different too! That is definitely something to be celebrated.

I'm thinking of a word which means all of those special, unique things that make you...you. It's also the theme of this assembly, can anyone guess what that word might be?

Take some answers.

Yes, it's identity!



Slide 3

Our identity is all of the things about us that make us who we are.

Our identity is made of so many different things, it could be:

- Personal information, e.g. your name, what you look like, age, school, where you live, your family.
- Personality and feelings, e.g. if you are loud, quiet, fun, shy, kind, caring, honest.
- Interests, hobbies and experiences, e.g. scootering, gaming, gardening, football, swimming, places you have been.



Slide 4

In this assembly we are going to be thinking about the parts of our identity that we share online. Now I'm going to ask you to think about your own online identity.

As we've just seen, our identities are made up of so many different things. It's not possible or sensible to share everything about our identity when we are online. Because of this, we might represent ourselves a little differently when we are online compared to how we do this when we are at home, at school or spending time with family for example.

You might have changed your identity online, perhaps without even thinking about it. Next, we're now going to play '**Have you ever**' and think about whether we have done this ourselves.

On the next few slides, you will see some things you might have changed or chosen while you are online. Put your hand up if you have ever done one of these things before...



Slide 5

Have you ever seen or used an emoji?



Slide 6

Have you ever used a filter online?



Slide 7

Have you ever created or chosen an avatar or character?



Slide 8

Have you ever chosen a username online?

A username is the name you choose for your online profiles or game characters.



Slide 9

Have you ever shared something online about yourself or the things you like to do?

All of these examples are ways we are able to change or choose our identity online. When you create a character for example, you might choose to give it the same glasses you have, or the same hair colour, but it doesn't tell other people everything about you and who you are.

It's not just you who has an online identity, lots of people across the world do too.



Slide 10

Did you know the world's population is almost 8 billion people and over 58% of people go online? That's just over half - that's a lot of identities online.

(Stats from *We are Social*)

wearesocial.com/uk/blog/2019/01/digital-in-2019-global-internet-use-accelerates

We know there are lots of identities online, but we're going to have a look at just one. You're going to be online identity detectives. Let's see what this person is sharing online, what we can discover about their identity and whether we think they are being sensible about what makes up their online identity.

I'm going to give you 30 seconds to talk to the person next to you about all the things you find out from looking at this page.



Slide 11

Get feedback from the group taking about 5 answers.

After a learner has given you their answer you could follow it up with the questions, 'Is that a sensible thing to share?' or, 'Is that safe?' to which the learner should respond with 'Yes'.

Suggested answers might include:

- They have chosen to use an avatar/character instead of a picture
- They live in the UK
- Their username is _Flying.fox.55
- They have a dog
- They like to play games like Super Mario
- They like pizza, music, scootering, fries and sleeping

Although we learnt a lot about this person, do you think we learnt EVERYTHING about who they are? Did we learn anything about their offline identity or their personal information?

Answer: No, we didn't learn everything about them or any of their personal information.

We learnt a lot about their online identity, like their hobbies and their favorite things, and some of these things make up their offline identity too. However, they haven't shared everything about their offline identity and they haven't shared any personal information such as their full name, their school or their home address. We don't know how old they are or when their birthday is.

They have used their online identity really safely.



Slide 12

This is one good thing about online identities. There are other great things about online identities, such as:

- You can express yourself.
- You can be creative.
- It can be really fun.
- Most importantly, you can keep the important parts of your identity, like your personal information safe and private.

As we have been discussing, an online identity doesn't tell people everything about you. This is a good thing when it comes to your safety.

Can anyone think of how this might also be a problem for our safety?

Answer: We need to remember that if we see someone online, we see their online identity, but that might not tell us everything about them. Sometimes the things people post or say or do doesn't reflect what they are really like offline. They might use usernames, photos, filters or avatars that are very different to their actual identity. This is why it is really important to remember that if we only know someone online, they are a stranger, and we should keep our identity and our personal information safe.



Slide 13

Always speak to an adult if:

- you're ever unsure about something you've shared online about your identity;
- someone else online has asked you for your personal information or for photos or videos of you;
- someone else online has worried or upset you.

Let's think about one more important question about online identities. Let's look at this scenario.



Slide 14

“I can do and say whatever I want online, and I can't get in trouble because it's my online identity talking not me.”

Put your thumbs up if you agree or put your thumbs down if you disagree.

Choose someone with their thumbs up and ask why. Choose someone with their thumbs down and ask why.

Even if we change our online identity, it's still a part of who we are and whatever we do or say it is still us, even if we are using an avatar and wearing a cape, or performing a funny dance move. It might feel like because we are behind a screen or talking to people online who don't know the 'offline' us, we can do and say what we want, but that isn't very kind. We should always remember to be responsible and respectful to other people, both online and offline.



Slide 15

What one new thing have you learnt about online identities today?

Take some answers.

Remember when you go online you have a choice; a choice of what to do, what to watch, who to communicate with and how to act. That's a good thing. It's important you feel free to make those decisions. Remember to use the advice from this assembly to keep yourself and others safe while you do this.



Slide 16

You'll be learning more about online identity and freedom of expression later today/ this week *(if applicable)*.