



INTERNET SAFETY ROLEPLAY

Citizenship

Instructions



- Cut up 'Internet Safety Roleplay Cards' (page 2).
- Ask pupils if they use social media, if they like it and why. Elicit the names of their favourite apps. Board emergent vocabulary.
- Explain to pupils the following scenario:
The government is worried about the safety of children online as there are more and more negative reports about children and social media. They want to hear the opinions of different types of people.
- Split pupils into groups of four.
- Explain that they will have 15 minutes to share their opinions in their group and debate the question 'Should social media be illegal for children under the age of 18?'
- Explain that before they begin, they need to read their role card and prepare their point of view. Give pupils 5 minutes to prepare and ask questions.
- Explain that it is important that everyone has a chance to speak. You may want to board phrases like 'What do you think?' and 'What about you?' and award points when you hear pupils using them.
- Monitor carefully and moderate the debates. Note down grammatical errors to address later if time.
- After 15 minutes, ask pupils to come to a conclusion, decide what they think the government should do and feed back to the class.

Differentiation:

- ▶ Display key words/phrases on board e.g. 'I think...' 'In my opinion...'
- ▶ Give two pupils the same card so they can support each other.
- ★ Give a stronger pupil the role of moderator/government representative to ask extra questions and encourage everyone in their group to participate.
- ★ Extend the task by asking pupils to write either an essay arguing both sides of the debate question or an article sharing their true opinion on the topic.

Materials required:

- 'Internet Safety Roleplay Cards' (page 2)
- Pictures of key words e.g. social media apps (optional)

You are a young person who loves social media. You believe that it has many benefits and it helps you to keep in touch with your friends. You love being creative with your posts and following the people who inspire you.

1

Think about:

How old are you?

Why do you love social media?

What do your parents/teachers think about social media? Why?



You are a parent who is worried about your child spending too much time on social media. You believe that it is having a negative impact on their self-esteem and that they are not concentrating on their schoolwork.

2

Think about:

How old is your child?

What is bad about social media?

Why do you think your child likes social media?

What would you like social media apps/teachers to do to help protect children online?



You are the CEO of a social media app. You did not design your app for children, but you know that lots of children use it. You are worried about children's safety online, but you are happy that the app is popular. You are interested in the opinions of your users.

3

Think about:

What is your app's name?

Are there any problems with children using your app?

What do you think you could do to help protect children online?



You are a teacher who uses social media but thinks that children under the age of sixteen should not be allowed to use it. You think that for younger children it only causes problems. You have lots of experience of children at school being upset because of cyberbullying. You have also noticed that children's spelling and grammar seems to be getting worse and they are starting to use internet slang in their exams.

4

Think about:

How old are the children you teach?

What are the problems with social media?

Why are you worried about children using social media?

