

## Play your part for a better internet

### Background Information

This theme has been chosen by the INSAFE network as it remains highly relevant in today's ever changing technologically-capable society. This theme encourages children to think about how they play a part in making the internet a positive place, and consider what to do if they experience anything negative online. The theme for Safer Internet Day 2016 highlights the issues and concerns that young people have when they're online, but the theme primarily focuses on practical solutions and responding appropriately to negative content so that we can all 'play our part for a better internet'.

### Slide 1

This assembly is for Safer Internet Day 2016.

Safer Internet Day in the UK is run by the UK Safer Internet Centre and this year's theme 'Play your part in a better internet' is an empowering message. During this assembly, we're going to be thinking about what you can do yourself to make the internet a better place.

### Slide 2

The internet is an amazing place which can help us in our real lives, provide us with entertainment, allow us to communicate and help us learn new things.

- What things do you like to do online?  
Talk to the person next to you for 30 seconds and share your top three things you do online.
- Do you do anything online that helps others (e.g. share your ideas/tips, answered a question, helped a friend in a game?)

### Slide 3

Ask what would the world be like if we turned off the internet?

- What would you do?
- How would you feel?

Ask children to turn to the person next to them and tell them what you think life would be like without the internet.

### Slide 4

Who can use the internet? Ask the children for some examples (e.g. me, my friends, my family, school, etc.)

Press/click to display the globe animation and the message 'Everyone!'.

Explain that many people use the internet every day for many different reasons and by the end of 2015, 3.2 billion people were expected to be online (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-32884867>).

### Slide 5

Show the slide and click/press to display each of the things people can share online.

Emphasise the last message; that no one has the right to hurt others or encourage hatred of others online.

## Slide 6

Read out the two questions ‘Does everyone always feel welcome online?’ and ‘Is everyone always nice online?’ and ask the children to think about them. Most will answer ‘no’ and you can take explanations and examples from them if appropriate. Some children may discuss personal experiences online, whereas others may talk about things they have seen or that have happened to others online (e.g. family or friends).

**Note:** Please be aware that taking responses in this way may result in disclosures being made by children about what has happened to them online. If this happens then it is important to follow these up in line with your school/organisation’s policies and procedures. (Advice on handling disclosures about online incidents can be found here: <http://www.childnet.com/teachers-and-professionals/for-working-with-young-people/need-help>)

For the next slides, you may wish to use one or two out of the three scenarios provided, depending on time available.

The scenario text and choices can be freely edited if you wish to use a different example.

## Slides 7 & 8

Read out the scenario and discuss the possible choices. Give children a few moments to discuss with the person next to them what they would do.

Asking for hands up to each choice is the quickest way to see what the children think and help guide any further discussion. Some choices will lead to further questioning:

- If you chose to write a comment back, would it be a positive one or a negative one? What might happen next?
- How would you feel if something happened to you and other people chose to do nothing?
- If you chose ‘something else’, what would you do?

## Slides 9 & 10

Read out the scenario and discuss the possible choices. Give children a few moments to discuss with the person next to them what they would do.

All of the choices are valid, but do highlight to the children the importance of telling an adult. If they have been upset by what they have seen then an adult can help, and they can also answer any questions children might have about what they experienced, as well as support them in finding more suitable content online.

## Slides 11 & 12

Read out the scenario and discuss the possible choices. Give children a few moments to discuss with the person next to them what they would do.

All the choices for this scenario are positive but children may give other responses that might require challenging if they are negative. This scenario may also encourage children to reveal their own personal experiences, which may require follow up (see note for slide 6).

## Slide 13

Share the different actions children can take when someone else says something hurtful online. Emphasise to children that they should always tell an adult if they are worried about what has been said to them or someone else. They should be aware that retaliating or joining in will make the problem worse and can lead to them being blamed too.

It is also important for children to try to be a good friend online and to encourage their friends to be positive and respectful online too.

## Slide 14

The slide highlights the importance of telling an adult, and what that adult may be able to do to help. In some cases, there will be nothing the adult can do to remove the offensive content that someone saw online. However, they can provide support and discussion to help children make sense of what they have seen, and to take positive action moving forward.

This may be need to be reiterated to older children who may feel that there is no point telling an adult as they won't be able to do anything about the content.

## Slides 15 & 16

Ask the children to think about the question 'What would the internet be like if we were all the same?' as you read the poem Jessica's Wish ([Appendix 1](#)).

## Slide 17

Share the tips for how to celebrate difference online, and emphasise the final message: 'Before you say what's on your mind, ask yourself, is it kind?'

Remind the children that words can hurt, and that the internet is not always the place to share thoughts, opinions and ideas that might offend or upset other people.

## Slide 18

Remind the children to be SMART online with five rules for staying safe online. Underpinning all these rules is the importance of being kind and positive online.

Ask the children to think about how they will play their part to be kind online, not just on Safer Internet Day, but every day.



## Primary Assembly Script

### Appendix 1 - Jessica's Wish

Jessica smiled and went online,  
“Did people like this post of mine?”  
On screen she saw just 2 likes there,  
She huffed and said, “Oh, no one cares.  
Why can’t my friends all be like me?  
How wonderful that life would be!  
If I was in charge of things online,  
Being the same would be just fine.”

All of a sudden she heard a beep,  
On screen appeared a purple sheep!  
“Good day,” he said, “I’m here for you.  
I’ve come to make your wish come true,  
Take care with what you choose to do,  
If nothing’s different, nothing’s new.”  
The sheep then vanished from the screen,  
“How strange,” she said, “what did he mean?”

She went downstairs and grabbed her phone,  
All set to play, get in the zone...  
“What’s this?” she asked, about her game.  
The scores had changed, they’re all the same.  
“Oh,” said Jess, and had to grin,  
“We’re all the same, no one can win.”  
She called her friends, “What’s up today?”  
Her friends had nothing new to say.

She chose to visit other sites,  
What she saw there gave her a fright.  
Each film, each pic, each word, each tweet,  
From every house in every street,  
Was just the same, with no new voices,  
No new content, no new choices.  
She closed her eyes and said, “No more!”  
This internet is such a bore!

The sheep was right, and very wise.  
If we’re the same, there’s no surprise.  
No highs, no lows, no variation,  
No news, no views, no inspiration.  
“Please change it back,” Jess cried sadly.  
The sheep appeared, “I’ll do that gladly.”  
Be kind online, choose not to hate,  
It’s difference that makes us great.

