



Lesson Plan – Safer Schools App – Pupil Secondary



Crib notes

Context:

Young people's lives are intertwined with the online world, their online presence is now part of who they are. Young people send messages, livestream, game and use social media platforms daily. When something happens online to make a child or young person feel worried, anxious, or scared, we want to make sure they can access the correct information when and where they need it. This is why we have created the Safer Schools NI App; it is a toolkit they can use to help keep themselves safe whilst navigating the online world.

Learning objectives:

- To understand what the Safer Schools NI App does
- To identify sections of the Safer Schools NI App they would find most useful
- To take their letters and download the App onto their devices



Lesson plan

INTRODUCTION

Slide 1: Explain that we are going to be learning about the Safer Schools NI App and how it can help keep us safe online.

Slide 2: Learning Objectives.

Slide 3: Welcome to Safer Schools NI Introductory Video. Play this video for the class to give them an overview of what their App does.

Slide 4: TASK Explain to the pupils that you are going to do an activity where they have to raise their hand if they recognise the app, game, or website on the screen.

Go through the slide and ask the pupils to raise their hands if they use or know of the platforms – they should appear one by one.

This is useful as it will give you an idea of what kind of apps, games, and websites that your pupils use.



Explain that even though they may be familiar with the app, game, or website, that there are risks associated with each one and it's important to stay safe.

Their Safer Schools NI App will teach them how to block, mute and report hateful users or users who make them uncomfortable, set their privacy settings so they aren't sharing more information than they want to how to spot fake news on these platforms and how to set strong passwords.

The list of platforms in order is as follows:

- Minecraft
- Snapchat
- Facebook
- YouTube
- TikTok
- FIFA
- Boomerang
- Facebook Messenger
- Twitch
- Discord
- Instagram
- Bitmoji
- Clash of Clans
- Among Us
- Tumblr
- Roblox
- Apex Legends
- Call of Duty
- Fortnite

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Explain that even though they may be familiar with the app, game, or website, that there are risks associated with each one and it's important to stay safe.

Their Safer Schools NI App will teach them how to block, mute and report unfriendly or nasty users, set their privacy settings so only their friends can see their posts and set strong passwords.

Slide 5: Online Safety Centre

In partners, ask the pupils to discuss what they would do if someone was making them uncomfortable or being abusive to them online. Take feedback from the class.



If necessary, lead the conversation to include blocking, reporting, and muting the user and talking to an adult they trust if they are worried or upset by something.

The class can use the Online Safety Centre on their App for step-by-step guidance on how to block, report and mute on different devices for their favourite apps, games, and websites. Play the short video on this slide to show them how to access it on the App.

Slide 6: Play the short video on this slide to show them how to access the Online Safety Centre.

These next few slides will show your pupils the content within their App. You can go through them all or pick the ones you think are most relevant. The selected topics that will appear in bold around the different sections of the App are a guide; you can look at the pupil role of the Safer Schools App and change these to suit your class.

Slide 7: Need to Know

The selected topics in bold will appear on the slide around the relevant icon – these are a guide; you can look at the pupil role of the Safer Schools App and change these to suit your class, whether they be Lower Secondary, Middle Secondary or Upper Secondary. Inform them that the Need-to-Know section is a great place to start because it contains tips and advice to do with:

- **Creating strong passwords.**
Ask the pupils what they think a password is for and why they are important. If necessary, lead the conversation to include the two following facts: passwords are secret codes to keep information safe and secure and they are necessary because their privacy is important.
- **Thinking before you tap.**
Ask the pupils if they have ever clicked on a link or a button online and not known what it does. Explain that if they do this, they might see something harmful or release a malicious software onto their device that can cause damage.
- **Trusted Adults.**
Explain that the App can give them information about the people in their lives they could turn to and get help from if something was worrying them. *For more resources on Trusted Adults, check out our Teach Hub.*

Slide 8: Social Media

- **Addiction and Social Media**
With social media becoming such a big part of everyday life for all of us, the impact of too much social media is becoming a real problem. Ask the pupils signs of problematic social media usage in groups. Take feedback and lead the conversation to include the following: the user would rather be at home on their device rather than out



socialising, the user feels like they are missing out if not engaging with others on social media, the first thing they do when they wake up is check their notifications, they scroll on social media apps when doing other activities such as watching TV or eating dinner.

- **Social Media and the Law**

Inform the class that sometimes what can seem like an innocent post on social media, can be taken seriously by the police. Ask the pupils to think about how they can stay safe in this regard. Get feedback and lead the conversation to include the following: avoid being nasty or offensive about sensitive topics in the news, avoid joking about criminal activity like riots or cyber-attacks.

- **Video Messaging Apps**

Ask the pupils to put their hands up if they have used Video Messaging Apps (FaceTime, Zoom, Skype etc) and are familiar with them. Ask the pupils to think about how they can stay safe on these platforms.

Get feedback and lead the conversation to include the following: knowing how to adjust your privacy settings, only interacting with people you know in real life, only accepting friend requests from people you know in real life and talking to your trusted adults about who you talk to when you use video messaging apps.

Let the pupils know they can learn more about these topics and more in their Safer Schools NI App.

Slide 9: Gaming



TASK

Inform the pupils that they can learn about gaming platforms in this section of their Safer Schools NI App.

In small groups, get your class to tell you what each of these words means. You can record points and name the winners at the end.

- **Gaming platforms.**

Ask the pupils to put their hands up if they have played any popular games like FIFA, Call of Duty or Among Us. If it appears like it has been played by most of the class, you can do the below activity.

SUS – This is short for the word suspicious

AFK – This is short for Away from Keyboard

Skins – These are outfits that change the cosmetic appearance of your character/avatar. There are rarer skins that only appear at specific times of the year such as Christmas, Valentine's Day, and Easter.

Flanking – This is when you take a side path (either left or right) to confront the enemy.

Biomes – Areas of the Minecraft world with different terrain, e.g., jungle, desert etc.



Easter Egg – A hidden feature or item in a video game.

Cooldown – The minimum length of time that a player needs to wait after using an ability before they can use it again.

Explain that in this section, they will be able to learn more about staying safe when playing their favourite games, like Among Us, FIFA or Fortnite.

Slide 10: Image Sharing

- **Images and the Law.** Explain that image sharing is taking an explicit photograph and sharing it with others via your mobile device. It is important that your pupils understand the dangers that sending images can pose. Encourage them to read this section of their Safer Schools App to understand what the law says about sharing images and how to get support should they ever need it.
- **Sextortion.** Online sexual extortion is when someone talks to a young person into undressing or behaving sexually on camera. They will then pressure or threaten the person. Encourage them to read this section of their Safer Schools App to learn how to protect themselves from this and get support if they need it.

It is important that your pupils know if they need help, they can always talk to a trusted adult.

Slide 11: Personal Information

- **Consent.** Explain that understanding the issue of consent when sharing an image online helps us to be respectful of others. Inform the pupils that reading this section of their Safer Schools App will give them tips on what to do if an image is shared without their consent and some DO's and DON'T's to sharing personal information online.
- **Your Privacy.** Encourage your pupils to read this section of their Safer Schools NI App to learn more about their right to privacy online and how to be responsible with information.
- **Targeted Adverts.** Following on from the topic above, encourage your pupils to read this section of their App to learn more about targeted adverts on the social media and gaming apps & platforms they use.

Slide 12: Scams

- **Reporting Scams.** Ask your pupils if they feel confident that they could protect themselves from online scams. In small groups, ask them to identify some popular scams. Take feedback and lead the conversation to include the below. Encourage your pupils that they can find out more about staying safe from scams and how to report them in their App.



Common Scams

Bank Scams: Someone may call you and pretend to be from your bank. They might ask you for information – your bank will never ask for your card PIN or suggest that you transfer money.

Phishing emails/texts: This is when an email or message is used to trick you into providing personal information. You might receive a text or an email claiming to be your bank. ALWAYS check the email address of the sender.

Compensation Calls: This is when someone rings you pretending to offer compensation for an accident you were supposedly in.

Email Sextortion Scam: There have been reports of people receiving an email from a person who claims to secretly film them and wants to use the footage to blackmail for money.

Slide 13: Digital Literacy

- **Persuasion and Advertising.** Explain that advertising aims to convince us to do or buy something – companies spend billions of pounds on having the best adverts. This is a good opportunity to have a conversation with your pupils regarding the influencers they follow. Ask the pupils to have a discussion in small groups about how the kind of persuasion techniques influencers use. Get feedback and lead the conversation to include the following: using trust and authority, emotion (used often by charities) and stories from people who have used the products. Encourage your pupils to use this part of their App to learn how to identify these techniques on social media platforms.
- **Harmful Content.** Encourage your pupils to read this part of their Safer Schools App to learn more about how to react to scary, harmful or upsetting content they may come across online.
- **Fake News.** Ask your pupils if they have ever heard of the phrase 'Fake News' before. Complete the task in the next slide.

Slide 14: Fake News Task

Ask your pupils to identify which of these quotes is real or fake and why. Lead feedback to include the answers below. After, inform them that they can use their App to learn how to spot fake news, how to report this online and more!

"Don't believe everything you read on the internet." – William Shakespeare

Answer: FALSE – He died in 1616.

"Fortnite was created to addict ... It's so irresponsible." – Prince Harry



Answer: TRUE – He made these comments in 2019.

“Fashion is the most important thing in the world. It is the purest form of creative expression.” – Giorgio Armani

Answer: FALSE – He didn’t say this but because it’s about fashion, it seems like something he ‘might’ have said.

Slide 14: Mental Health

- **Why is my mental health important?** Explain that mental health is just as important as physical health. Ask your pupils to give you some examples of the consequences of good mental health. If necessary, lead the feedback to include the following: helps you to cope with stress, change and setbacks, helps develop positive relationships, helps you to feel confident and enjoy life. Encourage them to explore this section of their App for more information on building resilience and how to look after their mental health.
- **Intimate Relationships.** Explain that relationships will change as they get older – friendships may get more significant, and they may start to have romantic relationships. Encourage them to explore this section of their App to engage with information around healthy relationships, sexual consent, and the law.

Slide 16: Health and Wellbeing

- **Healthy Relationships.** Ask your pupils what they think the signs of a healthy relationship are, emphasise that they should also think about friendships, as well as romantic relationships. Take feedback and lead the conversation to include communication, trust, respect, and honesty. Inform them that they can look at this section of their App for information like the above and also signs of an unhealthy relationship. This is important as knowing the difference between a healthy and unhealthy relationship helps you to think about your personal boundaries.
- **Online Relationships.** An online friendship can be strong because they may be based on a shared interest like a community. Encourage your pupils to engage with this section as it explains what an online friend should never do and what to do if you want to meet an online friend in real life.
- **Bullying.** Encourage your pupils to read this section of the App to understand what Bullying is, how it happens and get access to resources that can support them if they need it.

Slide 17: Online Safety Help

Slide 18: Quick Quizzes & Digital Tests



Play the video to show the pupils how they can engage with the content within their App.

Slide 19: Downloading and Logging In

This slide will show the pupils how to download and login to their Safer Schools NI App. Play the video for them. You can use the template letter as a handout here and ask them to take it home to their parents or carers.