



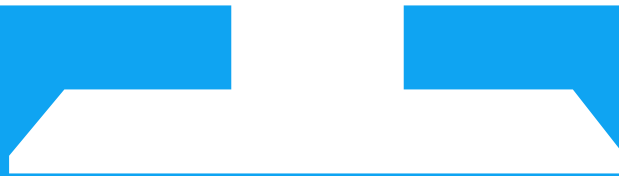
# What to do if...

you have an important question  
but don't know who to ask

lesson plans for talking about social  
networks in your classroom



**askfm**



# What to do if you want to ask an important question but don't want others to know

This module is part of a series of short modules on staying safe online. Its aim is to provide teachers with a simple framework for discussing important digital issues with their class and facilitate young people.

**Class:** Key stage 3

**Time:** 20 minutes (plus 5 minutes for safe space if needed)

**Learning objectives:** We are learning about the importance of questions and the different ways we can ask them

**Learning outcomes:** Young people will understand how to find important information through asking questions. In particular how they can responsibly ask questions online when they need support

**Resources:** Each student should have a sheet of A4 paper and pen, there should be a screen to show the video

**Preparation:** Each student should have a table to write on, this module would work well if the students were sat in groups and able to discuss ideas with each other

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**Optional safe space:** It's important to create a safe space where young people feel comfortable talking openly and honestly about these issues without feeling judged. In order to facilitate this, explain to the students that you will be talking about important issues and you want them to feel comfortable doing this, ask them what they might need from you and the rest of the class in order to talk freely and without judgement. It can be a good idea to first put up your some of your own requirements such as "listening", "respect for one another's opinions" and "openness". Make sure that you write up what the students are saying somewhere visible and ask them to explain their points as you put them up. At the end of this, check that all the students agree to uphold the requirements on the board. If any students disagree, ask them to explain what they don't like and why, feel free to adjust until the whole class agrees to help maintain the safe space.

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## Lesson Content

1. (2 minutes) Put the students into groups of 4-5 and ask students to think about all the people or organisations that they can ask questions to, **ask** them to write down as many as possible in 90 seconds.
2. (2 minutes) Get each group to **feedback** their answers to the rest of the class.

3. (1 minute) **Ask** “Does anyone ever feel uncomfortable asking questions”
  4. (2 minutes) Get the groups to discuss where this discomfort might come from. (As an example you could suggest “being judged by others” or “because they feel like they should already know it” or “they might feel ashamed”)
  5. (2 minutes) Encourage each group to feed back their answers to the rest of the class, write these up on a whiteboard
  6. (2 minutes) **Ask** the class what the result of this discomfort might be
    - a. Might it stop them asking questions?
    - b. What might the result of this be?
  7. (1 minute) Remind students that if they have a question, it’s important that they can get an answer, especially if it’s something that they are worried about. Let them know that it’s okay to feel uncomfortable but that there are different ways to get useful answers without others knowing what you’re asking and you’re going to explore this now.
  8. (2 minutes) Introduce the video, which has some examples of who they could ask questions to.
  9. (3 minutes) Encourage groups to think of other places where young people can get answers to questions they need and to write these down. (e.g. charities, friends, family)
  10. (3 minutes) Encourage the groups to think of what different questions could be asked at each place (e.g. asking questions about depression or mental health to a charity)
  11. As the activity finishes up remind the students that they can talk to teachers as well.
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Extension Work: Research charities where young people can ask their important questions, create a poster based on these.

Homework: Think about how you could direct people if they asked you a question you couldn’t answer.