What to do if...
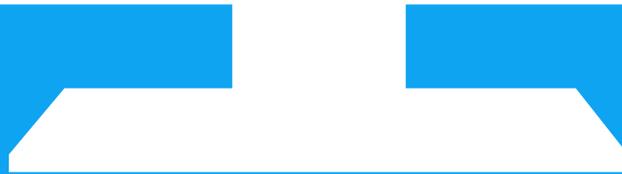
you're worried about your digital footprint

lesson plans for talking about social networks in your classroom

THE DIANA AWARD **D**

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A ANTI-BULLYING

FROM THE DIANA AWARD

What to do if you're worried about your digital footprint

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 optional safe space)

Learning objectives: We are learning about what our digital footprint is and how we can best manage it

Learning outcomes: Young people are aware of what constitutes their digital footprint and how they can protect it and use it to their advantage

Resources: A whiteboard, sheets of paper for students so they can make notes in groups, a projector to show the video

Preparation: Tables set out for group work, paper so that students can make notes in groups as the day progresses

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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.

Lesson Content

1. (2 minutes) Ask: "What is a digital footprint", encourage the students to speak to others beside them.

2. (2 minutes) Choose students to give their answers. (N.b. a digital footprint is the trace people leave behind when they use the internet; comments, likes, tweets, videos etc.)

3. (2 minutes) Ask students to get into groups of 4-5, challenge them to come up with as many positive benefits of a good digital footprint as possible in 90 seconds (e.g. getting a great job, positive relationships, making a difference for others). Whilst they're doing this, draw two rectangles, one inside the other, on the board.

4. (3 minutes) Go around each group and ask them how many benefits they came up with each. Let whichever group came out with most share theirs with the class, then allow other groups to contribute any benefits that might have been missed. Write these outside the outer rectangle.

5. (4 minutes) Now ask the group to discuss things that might threaten a great digital footprint, after 90 seconds encourage them to share these with the rest of the class and write them in the space between the two rectangles.

6. (1 minute) At this point reflect on the board, highlight the positive benefits of having a great digital footprint and underline how the threats to this can cause difficulties in the future (e.g. jobs, university etc).

7. (2 minutes) With the importance of a good digital footprint established, get each group to discuss how they can protect and enhance their digital footprint, introduce the video which has some suggestions on how this can be done.

8. (2 minutes) Show the video: and encourage students to write down suggestions.

9. (2 minutes) Collect the student's suggestions and write these up inside the central rectangle.

Extension Work: Get students to think about their goals for the future, whatever this might be and encourage them to come up with a digital footprint action plan that can help them reach this target.

Homework: Students should talk about the idea of a digital footprint with their family.

Benefits of a good digital footprint

Possible threats to a good digital footprint

Ways to protect and enhance a digital footprint

Example of a whiteboard set up for the module