



Online Safety Newsletter

January 2024—Online Relationships



Please note that the area of focus for each year group, is determined by pupil responses to an online survey carried out earlier in the academic year.

Year 8: How and why do people who communicate with others through online platforms try to influence others negatively?

Look out for influencers who ask for money or who want you to:

- Take part in an online challenge
- Spread hate speech
- Meet or go somewhere with them
- Send a nude picture
- Forward a post ridiculing someone you know

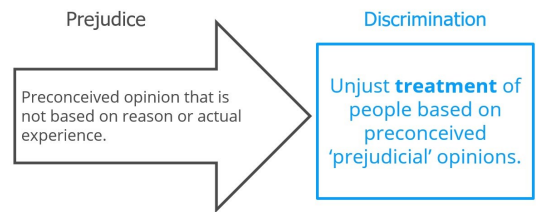
Common Techniques used to Influence

Flattery	Humour	Showing understanding of you	Making you feel special or good
Making you feel you belong	Offering gifts	Making you want to be like them	Being famous or popular
Sharing the same interests as you	Telling you everyone else is doing it	Offering friendship or a relationship	Being persistent
Threatening you	Knowing your interest	Having money	Sharing the same beliefs as you
Being a good listener	Having power		Offering guidance

Year 9: How do I recognise harmful language of a discriminatory nature and harassment online and who can support people if this occurs?

Harassment: unwanted behaviour which you find offensive or which makes you feel intimidated or humiliated. It can happen on its own or alongside other forms of discrimination.

Source: Citizen's Advice



How discriminatory behaviour/ language/ harassment can manifest itself online, e.g.

- Sexist memes shared or liked
- Racist posts liked/shared/commented on
- Use of social media to troll sports stars based on sexuality/ethnicity
- Online bullying
- Excluding people from online groups
- Sexual harassment/messages towards peers

[The Childline website](#) has very helpful information and reporting routes for online discrimination or use of discriminatory language

Year 10: What is an 'explicit' image? What are the consequences of sending one and how can I remove them from the Internet?

An explicit 'Images' relates to both photos and videos. It can include nude or semi-nude (including underwear) images. Sexting may be used as a 'catch-all' phrase to encompass explicit images - sexting may also include the sending of sexual messages.

Everyone's doing it - it's just part of normal flirting these days...

False—evidence suggests it is a minority

Because you are under 18, sending a nude or nearly nude is illegal activity...

True—making, possessing and distributing any imagery of someone under 18 which is 'indecent' is illegal. This does include imagery of themselves, if they are under 18.

Consequences of sending 'explicit images' for young people :

- emotional damage
- relationships
- reputational damage
- putting themselves at risk of other harmful behaviour e.g. blackmail
- legal consequences



JANUARY 2024 - Online Relationships

Year 11: How can I adapt my behaviour to engage positively and sensitively with a diverse range of people taking into account gender, cultural sensitivity, political and religious beliefs etc. ?

The online world allows the opportunity to connect with a number of culturally diverse groups. The ability to communicate online, in a variety of ways, brings its challenges when communicating with culturally diverse groups. Research any gestures, body language or topics of conversation which may have the potential to cause offence in different cultural groups.

Aspects of life/attitudes which may differ according to culture include:

Language	Literature	Politics
Religion	Music	Media
Gender	Sport	Education
Ethnicity	Food	Alcohol
Ethics, morals and behaviours	Dress & appearance	Sexual relationships

What can I do to ensure a positive and rewarding experience?

- Do your research beforehand
- Act with respect and consideration
- Learn from and with participants—ask if unsure
- Take advice
- Celebrate difference

Year 13: What is the difference between freedom of expression and legal accountabilitys?

Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights: Everyone has the right to freedom of expression. This right shall include freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart information and ideas without interference by public authority and regardless of frontiers. This Article shall not prevent States from requiring the licensing of broadcasting, television or cinema enterprises.

The exercise of these freedoms, since it carries with it duties and responsibilities, may be subject to such formalities, conditions, restrictions or penalties as are prescribed by law and are necessary in a democratic society...

There is therefore a need to balance 'freedom of expression', with the laws which govern online communication.

Year 12: What actions could someone take if they experience or are targeted by illegal online behaviour?

Laws which govern online behaviour

Communications Act 2003	Protection from Harassment Act 1997
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The Computer Misuse Act 1990	The Protection of Children Act 1978
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Digital Economy Act 2017	Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015
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The Malicious Communications Act 1988	Section 67 of the Serious Crime Act 2015
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Criminal Justice Act 1988	Section 33 of the Criminal Justice and Courts Act 2015
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Online Harms White Paper	Gambling Act 2005
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Equality Act 2010	Obscene Publications Act
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Illegal activity should be reported to the Police - 101 or CEOP.

Year 14: How I might mobilise online communities to support ideas / projects or campaigns?

Crowdsourcing: Enlisting the services of large numbers of people, either paid or unpaid, to complete a project/task or provide a service. This is usually done via online means e.g. social media platforms or specific websites e.g. Flickr

Crowdfunding: Different to crowdsourcing! Essentially, a way of generating finance by asking a large number of people for small amounts of money, traditionally to fund a project or idea. There is often some reward for those 'investing' funds.

Kickstarter (<https://www.kickstarter.com/>): A crowdfunding platform which uses a deadline and a minimum funding goal. If the minimum goal is not reached, no funds are collected. Traditionally Kickstarter has been used to fund creative media projects eg film, music etc

GoFundMe (<https://www.gofundme.com/>): a crowdfunding platform which allows users to create their own funding page, usually to raise funds for personal causes or life events eg expeditions or worthwhile causes such as illness
 Online petitions - the website <https://petition.parliament.uk/help> best explains this process