

Real friends and online 'friends'

Class:

Subject: SPHE

Duration:

Subject Links: ICT/English

Topic Overview:

This lesson is designed to be integrated into the SPHE programme. The class will have previously learned how to stay safe in real life; here they will explore how to stay safe on the Internet and how it is wise to be somewhat sceptical of what people claim on the Internet. The class will have worked on the Chatwise 'Golden Rules of Internet Safety' prior to this lesson.

SPHE Curriculum Mapping

Curriculum Strand: Myself: Safety and protection: Personal safety

Aims:

To enable the children to identify safety risks when using the Internet.

To enable the children to draw up appropriate safety strategies for using the Internet

Objectives:

To identify the key Internet safety message that online 'friends' should remain 'online'.

To understand that a child should never meet up with anyone they have only 'met' online in person.

To understand that one's parents or guardians should know one's online friends.

Learning Outcome:

After completing this lesson the student should be able to understand that not everyone they 'meet' on the Internet is who they say they are. The student should be able to appreciate the importance of keeping personal information private and of not meeting up with people they have only 'met' on the Internet without their parents' knowledge or supervision. They should be able to –

understand that making a 'friend' online is not the same thing as making one in real life.

explain how one can not be sure that people online are who they say they are.

ICT Framework Links: Levels 1 & 2

- Recognise situations where they should ask for help with ICT
- Recognise the need to follow guidelines for responsible ICT use and realise that there can be harmful personal consequences to the irresponsible use of ICT.
- Act responsibly in the use of email and communication and collaborative software (e.g. not giving out personal details, not replying to unsolicited email, not opening attachments from unknown senders).

- Use class agreed methods to keep secure their own and other people's information in electronic format (e.g. understanding the safe use email addresses, understanding the use of a password and not revealing their password to others).
- Discuss and implement the school's AUP regarding the Internet, email and other ICT devices.

Materials/Resources

Publications: Webwise *True_ FalseFriend* Worksheet, photocopied for each student.

Other: A large sheet of craft paper
Pupils copybooks and colouring pencils

Websites: www.webwise.ie/LearningResources - The Chatwise Module's 'Golden Rules of Internet Safety'

Further Resources

Webwise Glossary of Internet Terms

Webwise 'Internet Safety Pack for Schools'

www.webwise.ie

www.watchyourspace.ie

Vocabulary

Identity, persona, avatar, trust, friend, online, offline

An *online identity* or persona assumed by a person online may or may not reflect their true personality or identity.

An *avatar* is an image, sometimes a still picture, sometimes a 3D image, chosen by an individual to represent them visually online.

Activity/Tasks

The children will each fill in a **True_FalseFriend Profile Sheet**, half of which will be true, half false. They will be collected and read out to the full class and the class will try to determine real information from false.

Methodology

The Teacher explains how on the Internet it is easy to pretend you are someone you are not. It can even be fun to try out different personalities online at times. Unfortunately, bad people who pretend they are students can also do so. Sometimes they do this to trick students into becoming their 'friend' online. The Teacher explains how in this lesson the students are going to see how easy it is to pretend online to be what you are not and how they can keep those people from becoming their 'friends' online.

Stage 1

The Teacher distributes the True_FalseFriend Worksheets, having circled at the top of the page either the 'T' for True for half of the class and circled the 'F' for False for the other half of the class. Explain that even the Teacher will have a Worksheet and that the students will have to guess who is being a True or False Friend.

Stage 2

The Teacher collects the completed Worksheets and reads a number of the selected Identities to the class, a mixture of true and false identities including the Teacher's own where the Teacher has chosen to be the students' age, with similar interests to the students. The class try to judge if the Identity is true or false, made up in an attempt to trick the others.

The aim of the exercise is for the students to understand that it is very difficult to know if a person is whom they say they are online.

Stage 3

Discussion points are placed on the board as to how difficult it is to really know who you might be chatting or talking to online. The class recaps on what Fionn and Niamh learned in the Chatwise Module www.webwise.ie/LearningResources about being online. The pupils recall the **Chatwise Golden Rules** they have previously learned stressing the importance of always having a parent or adult with them when they are online. The pupils could draw up a **Our Class Top 3 Safety Rules** to be posted to the classroom noticeboard. The class should be clear on the crucial safety point that they never arrange to meet up with a person they 'met' online.

Evaluation/Assessment

Choosing one of the **Top 3 Safety Rules** the pupils could draw and colour a sign to represent the rule

Extension Activities

The students could bring home their Top Safety Rule Sign to discuss with parents and brothers and sisters. Additional 'Web Safety Tips' could be gathered and discussed in class the following day.

Notes
