

Below you will find quick activities to accompany our in depth lesson plan to support the theme of **'Play your part for a better internet.'** The activities all promote the idea of celebrating and responding to differences online.

Key Stage 1

Watch the SID TV video about Smartie the Penguin

Available at www.saferinternet.org.uk/SID16-primary-videos. In this video Smartie needs help from Red and Murphy when his friend gets sent a mean comment online. Watch the video and ask the children:

- What should we do if we ever get a mean comment online?
- Who can help us at home?
- Who can help us at school?
- Is it ok to be mean to someone online?
- How can we be a good friend to others?

Teacher says

Play a game where you provide directions to highlight the differences of everyone in the class. Eg teacher says 'everyone with brown hair stand up', 'everyone who likes football stand on one leg', 'everyone who likes to sing turn around twice'. Afterwards ask the children:

- Why didn't everyone follow each instruction? Is that ok?
- Why are we all different?
- What would it be like if we were all the same?

Key Stage 2

Celebrating differences

Give the children 5 slips of paper or post-its and ask them to write down 5 things about themselves they would be happy to share online. State whether this is about their interests or appearance as the activity could be used for both e.g. 'I love playing Minecraft' or 'I have long hair'.

Once they have written them down ask each group to collect all their slips together. They are then to arrange these into two piles; things which are the same about us and things which are different. Once complete discuss the following questions:

- Which pile is bigger?
- Why are we all different?
- What would it be like if we were all the same?
- Is it wrong to be different?
- How can we celebrate our differences?
- Is it ever okay to be mean to someone because they are different to us?

Thinking about how we communicate

Give each child a card with an action or feeling on, e.g. 'comment on someone's hair' or 'you are angry' (**Appendix 1**). Ask the children to move around the room and talk to each other freely using their card as a guide, e.g. someone who is feeling angry may not be very nice or someone who is commenting on someone's hair may say 'You have blonde hair.' or 'Your hair is short.'

- Afterwards ask the children how it made them feel to receive negative comments/positive comments and how it felt to say them to people?
- Would it be easier to say something mean online than face to face? Why is this?
- Was it nice that someone made a comment about something specific about you?
- What positive things can you do if someone is making mean comments online?

Dealing with differences online

Ask the children what they would do if someone was being mean or hurtful to them online. Discuss their answers and then read through the response cards ensuring they understand each action (**Appendix 2a**). Read one of the scenarios (**Appendix 2b**) to them and get them to choose which **3 actions** would be most important for that person to do. They could do this in pairs or small groups. Share as a whole group and highlight the importance of telling an adult, saving the evidence and blocking contact from that person.

Reported messages will only be removed if they break the terms and conditions of the website or if they break the law, but do encourage children to look for these features on the sites, games and apps they use.

Jessica's wish

Reread the poem from the assembly (**Appendix 3**) and discuss the following:

- What would it be like if we were all the same?
- What's good about being different?
- How many ways are we all different?
- Do we always have to agree with/have the same view as other people?

Then ask the children to create a storyboard to accompany the poem. They may also wish to actually turn these storyboards into short films/animations based around the poem.



Primary Quick Activities

Appendix 1 - Thinking about how we communicate

You are happy	You don't care about anything which is said	You are annoyed	Comment on their clothes
Be friendly	Ignore everyone	Laugh at everything someone says	Just respond with a confused look
Tell them how you are feeling	You are sad	Disagree with everyone	Tell them something about yourself
Comment on their hair	Agree with everyone	Comment on their shoes	You are feeling sleepy

Talk to an adult	Block the sender	Send a mean message back
Report the messages	Save the messages	Ask them to stop
Ignore the messages	Delete the messages	Send a silly message back
Say something nice	Do something else	I'm not sure what to do

Primary Quick Activities

Appendix 2b - Dealing with differences online

Scenario	Advice for adults
<p>Someone starts destroying your game or tries to kill off your character over and over again</p>	<p>This is called Griefing. Children should block this person and remove them from their game. On games like Minecraft this requires you to send a message to the administrator of the server/game (this is often another player).</p> <p>On other games there are report, help and block buttons that children can use to let the game know about another user's behaviour.</p> <p>Remind a child to always tell an adult if they see or experience anything that worries or upsets them in a game.</p>
<p>Someone sends you a message saying no one wants to be your friend because you speak with a weird accent and wear funny clothes</p>	<p>Tell children it is really important to save the message and show it to an adult as soon as possible. They could then block the sender so they cannot message them again.</p> <p>Remind children never to retaliate by saying anything hurtful back as that often makes the situation worse.</p>
<p>You see a message on a game saying 'You're just a girl; of course you're rubbish at this game!'</p>	<p>Encourage children to block the user so they cannot play against you again. Some gaming networks allow you to report them which affects their gamer rating as well.</p> <p>Discuss with children how playing a game online with people you know (e.g. school friends, family) can sometimes be a better and safer experience than playing a game with strangers. It is also important to highlight that mean comments based on gender are never acceptable.</p>
<p>You see a message under a picture online saying nasty things about that person.</p>	<p>Encourage children to take positive action. They could:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Block the user and remove them as a friend so they no longer see those types of messages from that person. • Report the message to the site. • Say something positive about that person to support them. • Make sure they don't join in and say nasty things too. • Tell a trusted adult who can then help the person who received those messages.
<p>You put a picture of yourself up as your profile picture and people make mean comments about your appearance.</p>	<p>Remind children never to send a mean comment back as this can make the situation worse, and they can also end up in trouble for what they said in retaliation.</p> <p>Encourage children to report the user and block them, to save a copy of the messages and to make sure they talk to an adult if they are worried or upset by anything said to them online. Discuss with the children the importance of thinking before uploading or sharing images online and that not everyone who sees it may say positive things about that image.</p>

Primary Quick Activities

Appendix 3 - Jessica's Wish

Jessica smiled and went online,
"Did people like this post of mine?"
On screen she saw just 2 likes there,
She huffed and said, "Oh, no one cares.
Why can't my friends all be like me?
How wonderful that life would be!
If I was in charge of things online,
Being the same would be just fine."

All of a sudden she heard a beep,
On screen appeared a purple sheep!
"Good day," he said, "I'm here for you.
I've come to make your wish come true,
Take care with what you choose to do,
If nothing's different, nothing's new."
The sheep then vanished from the screen,
"How strange," she said, "what did he mean?"

She went downstairs and grabbed her phone,
All set to play, get in the zone...
"What's this?" she asked, about her game.
The scores had changed, they're all the same.
"Oh," said Jess, and had to grin,
"We're all the same, no one can win."
She called her friends, "What's up today?"
Her friends had nothing new to say.

She chose to visit other sites,
What she saw there gave her a fright.
Each film, each pic, each word, each tweet,
From every house in every street,
Was just the same, with no new voices,
No new content, no new choices.
She closed her eyes and said, "No more!"
This internet is such a bore!

The sheep was right, and very wise.
If we're the same, there's no surprise.
No highs, no lows, no variation,
No news, no views, no inspiration.
"Please change it back," Jess cried sadly.
The sheep appeared, "I'll do that gladly."
Be kind online, choose not to hate,
It's difference that makes us great.

