

Watching and sharing videos online

Lesson plan for 8-12 year olds

Time required for lesson

 45-60
minutes

Lesson Aim

Learners will think about key online safety messages specifically in the context of watching and sharing video content online, relevant to popular platforms, including TikTok, YouTube, Twitch, Instagram and Snapchat.

Note for educators: This resource has been created in response to feedback from parents and professionals about the use of online video-sharing platforms by young people under the age of 13. For information about age restrictions and how to discuss these, see [Appendix 1](#).

Lesson Outcomes

Learners will:

- Recognise the possible risks of using online video-sharing platforms.
- Understand that not all video content should be shared with all audiences.
- Develop a bank of practical strategies to use on online video-sharing platforms.

Activity	Title	Timing
Starter	How do you watch videos?	5-10 minutes
Activity 1	Who's watching?	10 minutes
Activity 2	Simeon's Story	10 minutes
Activity 3	Prevention or response?	10 minutes
Plenary	Pair and share	5 minutes

How do you watch videos? (Starter)



On a whiteboard or sheet of paper, begin drawing the logo for YouTube. As you draw, challenge learners to guess what you're drawing.

Once they have correctly identified the logo, ask them to raise their hands if they have ever used YouTube. Then, either in small groups or as a whole class, ask learners to name as many apps/services/websites where you can make and share videos as possible.

Key Questions:

- Which ones are your favourite? Why?
- What features do they have that you enjoy using?
- What types of video are your favourites to watch?
- What types of video are your favourites to make?

Finish by asking learners what they think are the risks or dangers of watching or sharing videos online. Make a list of these together and put aside to return to later in the session.

Who's watching? (Activity 1)



This activity can be run in pairs or as a whole group activity.

In pairs

Ensure each pair has a copy of the cards in **Appendix 2** (*Video Content Cards*) in one pile and also of those in **Appendix 3** (*Viewer Cards*) in a separate pile.

In their pairs learners should draw one card from each pile. This will give them a description of a short video they should imagine they have created and shared online, and a description of someone who is viewing that video.

Learners should discuss how they would feel if the described viewer was watching their video content.

Whole group

Provide each learner with one of the cards displayed in **Appendix 2** (*Video Content Cards*).

Have a separate pile of the cards in **Appendix 3** (*Viewer Cards*).

One-by-one, invite learners to share with the group the video content described on their card. Then ask them to pick a card from the pile to find out who is viewing their video.

As a group discuss how learners would feel if their video was being watched by this viewer. You could get them to choose emojis which represent their feelings best.

Simeon's Story (Activity 2)



This activity can be run in pairs or individually. Give out **Appendix 4** (*Simeon's Story*) and explain to the learners that they are going to read the story of a young person (Simeon) who is thinking about downloading a new video-sharing app. Learners should decide what Simeon should do at each point in the story. At the end the learners will reflect on when Simeon made good choices and suggest what Simeon could have done differently.

Why not use drama to bring this activity to life? Have learners act as the different characters and freeze at each point for a group discussion. Use hot seating to explore different perspectives.

Prevention or response? (Activity 3)



Remind learners that going online should be fun, but at times things can go wrong or be upsetting. Even if they are using an app that is designed for older people, it is not their fault if something happens when they are using it and they should always ask for help.

Discuss with learners the difference between preventing and responding to online harms. Clarify what the two terms mean and explain that both of these strategies are useful.

Give out of **Appendix 5** (*Prevention or response cards*) and ask the learners to split the cards into two groups: ones that can prevent something from going wrong, and ones that are ways to respond after something has already happened.

Then return to the list of dangers of watching or sharing videos online which was created during the '*How do you watch videos*' activity. For each danger, discuss with learners if it can be **prevented**, and if so, how? If not, discuss what would be the most helpful **response**. Learners may wish to suggest their own prevention or response strategies not listed on the cards.

Pair and share (Plenary)



In pairs, ask learners to decide on three top tips for using video-sharing apps which they would recommend to others. Then have each pair join to form a group with another pair – can they narrow down their joint six top tips back to just three?

Go round each group of four and ask them to share their top tips. Can you settle on three top tips the entire class agree on?

Many online video-sharing platforms are age restricted. This means that the platform is not intended for use by children and young people under a certain age. The age restrictions in the UK on some of the most popular platforms are listed below:

Instagram	Users should be 13+. Some content is only visible to those registered as 18+.
Snapchat	Users should be 13+. Some content is only visible to those registered as 18+.
TikTok	Some content accessible without an account. Registered users should be 13+. Some content restricted depending on your account settings and registered age.
Twitch	Most content accessible without an account. Registered users should be 13+. According to the Terms of Service, users aged 13-17 should be supervised by an adult.
YouTube	Most content accessible without an account. Registered users should be 13+. Some content is available only to those signed in and registered as 18+.

Safeguarding Advice: Best practice is to record any underage use of age restricted platforms for safeguarding purposes, even if this is widespread (or perceived to be), as it may form part of a wider picture of a child's home life. Follow your school's/setting's safeguarding procedures to do this.

Teaching about age restricted platforms

The following advice is also relevant to teaching about social media platforms or age-rated films and games.

Before the session

- Familiarise yourself with your school's/setting's online safety and safeguarding policies.
- Notify a member of senior management or a member of staff responsible for safeguarding in advance so they can support with any issues arising from the session.

To start the session

- Share the age restrictions for platforms relevant to the session content.
- Acknowledge that it is safest to wait until you reach the correct age before using them.
- Explain that the session is a safe space and that if learners are using age restricted platforms then you will not be angry or upset, but would like to support them in doing so safely.

During the session

- Use neutral language and avoid being critical of learners who are using age restricted platforms as this may make them more secretive about their usage in the future and limit your ability to support them in staying safe.
- Use neutral language and avoid implying that use of age-restricted platforms is normal or widespread, as this may inadvertently encourage learners not on these platforms to join.



<p>A video of you doing a dancing challenge in your pyjamas</p>	<p>A vlog of a fun day out with your best friend.</p>
<p>A silly photo montage video celebrating a friend's birthday</p>	<p>A video of you doing a lip-syncing challenge in your school uniform</p>
<p>An unboxing video of a present you've received.</p>	<p>A video of your older sister singing loudly in the car that she didn't know you recorded</p>
<p>A video of your friend falling over in the mud during a school football match.</p>	<p>A video of you and your friends doing impressions of your teachers.</p>
<p>A video of your friends being silly in a shop and accidentally knocking over a display and getting told off</p>	<p>A video of some homemade slime which doesn't show your face.</p>
<p>A video of your new puppy chasing its own tail.</p>	<p>A roleplay video where you pretend to have an online business and box up pretend orders</p>
<p>A video where you use rude language about a classmate</p>	<p>A video of you doing a popular dance routine but making lots of mistakes.</p>
<p>A video where you create a new character on your favourite game that looks like you</p>	<p>A video of you successfully completing a difficult level in a game</p>
<p>A 'How to' video of a new world you created on your favourite game.</p>	<p>A family video on the beach in your swimming costumes.</p>



A friend from school



One of your grandparents



Your next door neighbour



Your school's
Headteacher



Someone who works at your
local supermarket



Your brother/sister



Your parent or carer



Your favourite cousin



An 11 year old from another
country who you do
not know



An adult friend
of your parents



Your Year 2 teacher



Your favourite internet celebrity
(Vlogger, Streamer, etc)



An 18 year old who used
to go to your school but
who you do not know



A police officer



The boss of a big company



An adult who you have never
met and do not know



Simeon is 12 years old and lives with his nan. He is very excited to receive a special birthday present. Read Simeon's story and tick the best answer or answers for each question...

Simeon gets a phone for his birthday. He has wanted one for ages and his friends are as excited as he is. They tell him to download a new video-sharing app, but Simeon is supposed to ask before downloading new apps. Should Simeon...

a. Download the app straight away?

b. Ask at home?

c. Stick to the apps he already has?

Simeon asks at home and Nan does some research. Simeon is allowed to download it but can only use it after school and on the weekends. Simeon loves lots of the videos he watches, but then he sees one that makes him feel a bit sick and upset. Should Simeon....

a. Quickly skip to the next video?

b. Talk to Nan?

c. Delete the app?

Simeon skips to the next video but he can't stop thinking about what he saw. He's worried he might see something like it again. Should Simeon...

a. Talk to Nan?

b. Delete the app?

c. Look at the settings

Simeon looks at the settings but can't work them out so he speaks to Nan. They discover that there are safety features for all under 18s if you create an account. Simeon starts to create his account but it says he has to be 13. Should Simeon...

a. Lie and say he is 13?

b. Not bother creating an account?

c. Ask Nan what to do?

Simeon decides not to talk to Nan or create an account. Simeon carries on using the app and just skips if he sees any videos he doesn't like. Simeon notices he is spending a lot of time on it and sometimes breaks Nan's rules about only going on after school. Should Simeon...

a. Ask Nan if he can use the app more?

b. Sneak his phone with him to school so she doesn't notice?

c. Set timers to manage his time better?

Simeon asks Nan for more time on his phone, but she says he has plenty so he starts setting timers to help. His friends have accounts and lots are sharing their own videos. One of them has lots of followers and tells Simeon he can get loads with a public account. Should Simeon...

a. Set up a public account?

b. Set up an account and share videos with his close friends?

c. Wait until he's 13 for an account?

Simeon is now 13 so decides to set up an account. He accepts followers he knows and his friends love his videos. They even say they are better than some of the ones they see from famous video creators! Should Simeon...

a. Make his account public?

b. Keep making videos for his mates on a private account?

c. Make his account public but disable the comments on his videos?

Simeon makes his account public and starts to get a few more followers. Simeon usually gets positive comments on his videos and ignores the mean ones. One person keeps saying rude things and makes their own video criticising Simeon's. Should Simeon...

a. Report the person on the app?

b. Talk to Nan?

c. Block the person?

Simeon reports and blocks the person and talks to Nan, who says he's done the right thing and helps him feel better. One of Simeon's new videos gets lots of likes. It is a friend asleep dribbling and snoring. The friend tells Simeon to take it down. Should Simeon...

a. Leave it up?

b. Take it down?

c. Say sorry?

Simeon takes down the video and his friend is happier. Simeon gets a message from a follower he accepted ages ago who said they were a friend of a friend. They want a video chat. Should Simeon...

a. Ask them their name?

b. Delete the message and block them?

c. Tell Nan?

Simeon tells Nan and they ask Simeon's friends about the person. One of the group had accepted them and then the rest had all done the same, but nobody knows them. They all decide to block the person.

Looking back at the story...

What did Simeon do well?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

What could Simeon have done differently?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____



Tell a trusted adult

Disable comments

Save the evidence

Make your account private

Block the person

Report the person

Take it down

Think before you post

Only accept followers you know and trust