

To stream or not to stream?



This resource has been produced to support teachers and other professionals working with young people to introduce the topic of livestreaming. It includes the following:

- An introduction for staff on the topic of livestreaming and how their students may engage with it
- Two scenario based activities to support students and staff in discussing some of the risks of livestreaming
- A page of livestreaming tips provided by Childnet Digital Leaders

What is livestreaming?

Livestreaming is the act of transmitting or receiving live video or audio coverage of an event or person. As adults, we are often most familiar with livestreaming being used as a means to communicate to the world what is happening at a specific moment in time. For example, livestreaming can be used to document breaking news stories.

Livestreaming is also becoming a very popular way for people to broadcast themselves on apps and sites such as Instagram, Facebook, Periscope, Twitch, live.ly and YouTube. People use these services to broadcast live video footage to others, such as their friends, a certain group of people or the general public. Vloggers and celebrities can communicate with their fans, promote their personal brand and disseminate certain messages, including marketing and advertising through livestreaming.

How are young people engaging with livestreaming?

There are two key ways young people may engage with livestreaming, which are shown in the table below.

Watching (as a viewer)

Lots of young people enjoy watching livestreams. It's exciting and can help them feel like they're part of something.

They may watch livestreams from their friends, but also from internet personalities and celebrities who use live video to communicate with their audiences.

One popular form of livestreaming is watching live gameplay. This footage will often show the game as it appears on the screen for the player, alongside a voiceover by the person playing and sometimes video footage of the player too.

Hosting (as a streamer)

Some young people are now starting to host their own livestreams, broadcasting live video content to their friends or followers.

They may use the live features of social media services they already have accounts with (for example, Instagram Live) to show friends and family what they are doing in their day-to-day lives.

However, some young people may choose to broadcast their livestream to a wider audience – or even publically, particularly if they're trying to build up a following online.

How can I teach young people about livestreaming?

You can teach students about livestreaming the same way you teach them about other aspects of online safety. Start by talking to your students about their online lives and their experiences of livestreaming: Are they watching livestreams on services like Twitch? Or hosting their own? Do they livestream using social media services like Facebook and Instagram? What about livestreaming appeals to them the most?

Use what you find out to then inform the messages you're delivering in the classroom. Lots of the key online safety messages that your students may already be familiar with can be adapted and discussed specifically in relation to livestreaming.

For more guidance specific to livestreaming visit: www.childnet.com/teaching-livestreaming

To stream or not to stream?

This resource is designed to be adapted to best suit the needs of different students. It focuses on the benefits and risks of young people hosting their own livestreams and has two parts. Both parts are scenario based and can be used as the basis for an entire lesson on livestreaming or as a quick activity in a wider lesson on online safety.

Note to Educators

This resource is aimed at students aged 11+.

However, the scenarios are designed to be broad enough to be adapted for use with younger students, with further guidance from the educator.

Part 1 - Considering when is and isn't appropriate to 'go live'

The resource consists of 8 scenarios for students to think about and discuss.

Key points to consider for each scenario include:

- ⇒ Could livestreaming at this time or in this place put someone in physical danger?
- ⇒ Could livestreaming at this time or in this place damage someone's reputation?
- ⇒ Is any personal information being shared in the livestream?
- ⇒ Is the content of the livestream respectful of other people and the law?

Specific points to consider for each scenario are shown in the table below.

Scenario	Guidance Notes
You're playing your favourite game and promised your friends and followers you'd show them a great shortcut you found...	Who can see this stream? Does 'followers' mean people you don't know offline? Be aware of sharing personal information.
A close friend is competing in a running event. You are stood at the finishing line waiting when you spot them heading your way...	This could be a fun way to share the event with family or friends who couldn't make it. But would your friend be happy to feature in it, even looking tired or sweaty?
You're in town when a fire engine goes past with its sirens on, followed by several police cars. You see a large crowd of people ahead...	Is it safe to livestream this event? Is filming respectful to the victims of whatever has happened? Be careful not to get in the way of the emergency services.
You are waiting for a train with some friends. Everyone is chatting and having a laugh but the train is delayed and you're bored...	Is there a physical risk here? It's easy to get carried away with friends. Remember you can't take a livestream back or edit the content. Think first: are jokes safe and/or sensible?
You're in class but the teacher has popped out of the classroom. One of your friends has planned a prank on another classmate...	Pranks can be fun if everyone is in on the joke but the victim may end up feeling bullied or targeted. If school finds out about this stream, could someone get in trouble?
You're looking after your friend's new puppy and he won't stop chasing his own tail...	Everyone loves cute and funny animal videos—but be careful about sharing personal information, your own or your friend's, including location.
You're at a house party with your friends. Everyone is having a great time...	Will everyone be happy to feature in this livestream? People may not want to be on camera. Could any of the activities taking place damage someone's online reputation?
You've just been shopping and want to show off your new purchases to your friends and followers...	'Hauls' can be popular videos and may attract new viewers, but be careful of sharing personal information. Could content like this be seen as 'showing off' or 'boasting'?

For more guidance specific to livestreaming visit:
www.childnet.com/teaching-livestreaming

To stream or not to stream?

Look at the following scenarios. For each one consider the possible benefits and possible risks of 'going live'. Try to decide if you were in this situation, would you stream or not?



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① You're playing your favourite game and promised your friends and followers you'd show them a great shortcut you found...

② A close friend is competing in a running event. You are stood at the finishing line waiting when you spot them heading your way...

③ You're in town when a fire engine goes by with its sirens on, followed by several police cars. You see a large crowd of people ahead...

④ You are waiting for a train with some friends. Everyone is chatting and having a laugh but the train is delayed and you're bored...

⑤ You're in class but the teacher has popped out of the classroom. One of your friends has planned a prank on another classmate...

⑥ You're looking after your friend's new puppy and he won't stop chasing his own tail...

⑦ You're at a house party with your friends. Everyone is having a great time...

⑧ You've just been shopping and want to show off your new purchases to your friends and followers...

To stream or not to stream?

Part 2 - Responding to possible dangers when already livestreaming

The resource consists of 5 scenarios for students to think about and discuss.

Key points to consider for each scenario include:

- ⇒ What could happen if this situation continues?
- ⇒ What is the best response in this situation?
- ⇒ How could someone get support in this situation?

Specific points to consider for each scenario are shown in the table below.

Scenario	Guidance Notes
<p>Jenna is livestreaming from her bedroom on her mobile. Her viewers can send Jenna requests - most of them are silly but one request makes Jenna feel really uncomfortable.</p> <p>What advice would you give Jenna?</p>	<p>The content Jenna streams is available to an audience as it happens — whatever she says or does cannot be taken back and there's a risk the audience of a livestream or the service where it is hosted may keep a recording of the stream which could be made available after the original stream has ended or expired. Jenna does not have to do anything which makes her feel uncomfortable and should speak to an adult about what has happened immediately.</p>
<p>Hitesh and his friends are hosting a livestream together when they receive a really horrible comment from a viewer. One of Hitesh's friends is so upset he wants to stop the stream.</p> <p>What advice would you give Hitesh?</p>	<p>This scenario is a good opportunity to discuss consent. If Hitesh's friend does not consent to continue with the livestream, then Hitesh shouldn't pressure him into doing so. Students may talk about blocking or reporting the viewer who posted the mean comment—these are good responses, but remind them that you cannot block how it makes you feel. Talk about the importance of sharing what has happened with an adult and of supporting the friend who is upset. Some students may suggest retaliating to the comment but remember this could make the situation worse.</p>
<p>Nikita is livestreaming her favourite game for her followers. One follower comments saying they can gift her a rare gemstone on the game, but that then Nikita will owe them a favour.</p> <p>What advice would you give Nikita?</p>	<p>It's not clear what the 'favour' here will involve but be aware that sometimes viewers of a stream will make inappropriate requests or offer money or praise in exchange for streamers undertaking certain behaviours on camera – young people need to be aware that there is never any obligation to participate in this and that they should speak to an adult they trust to get help in these situations. The safest response is not to accept the gemstone in the first place, however ensure students know that regardless of what actions they've taken in the past—it's never too late to speak to an adult for help, especially if things have got out of hand.</p>
<p>Mica is livestreaming for her online friend - who she's been chatting to and flirting with for a while. They comment lots of flattering compliments and then ask Mica to show them 'something nice and just for me'.</p> <p>What advice would you give Mica?</p>	<p>The first thing to draw out here is that Mica does not know her friend offline and they are therefore still a stranger. You could ask the students what they think Mica's friend is asking for - they may mention 'nudes'. Discuss the phrasing 'just for me' - is there any guarantee that what Mica shares will remain private? How could content from a livestream be shared further? (Recordings, screenshots, etc.) It's worth noting that whilst the victim here is female, young people of any gender could and have been</p>
<p>Jay is watching a popular streamer live on social media. Half way through the stream the content changes - it's graphic and upsetting, with no prior warning.</p> <p>What advice would you give Jay?</p>	<p>This example is intended to highlight that whilst watching livestreams can be great fun—there are risks here too. Remind students that as the footage is live you can never predict exactly what you'll end up seeing. Advice for Jay could include strategies like turning the device over or immediately exiting the stream. Reporting the stream to the platform where he is viewing it is also a good idea. Make sure students know that talking to someone about what he's seen is the most important thing for Jay here.</p>

Finish the activity by reminding students that whilst livestreaming can be fun and exciting, there are risks involved and it's always important to think before you post. Show them the tips from the Childnet Digital Leaders. Let them know that if they have any concerns about anything that has happened online then they should tell someone: an adult they trust at home or someone in school. They can also get support from the following places:

To stream or not to stream?

Look at the following scenarios. Each one takes place whilst someone is hosting a livestream.

For each situation, consider what advice you can offer them.



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①

Jenna is livestreaming from her bedroom on her mobile. Her viewers can send Jenna requests. Most of them are silly but one request makes Jenna feel really uncomfortable.

What advice would you give Jenna?

②

Hitesh and his friends are hosting a livestream together when they receive a really horrible comment from a viewer. One of Hitesh's friends is so upset he wants to stop the stream.

What advice would you give Hitesh?

③

Nikita is livestreaming her favourite game for her followers. One follower comments saying they can gift her a rare gemstone on the game, but that then Nikita will owe them a favour.

What advice would you give Nikita?

④

Mica is livestreaming for her online friend - who she's been chatting to and flirting with for a while. They comment lots of flattering things and then ask Mica to show them 'something nice and just for me'

What advice would you give Mica?

⑤

Jay is watching a popular streamer live on social media. Half way through the stream the content changes - it's graphic and upsetting, with no prior warning.

What advice would you give Jay?

Livestreaming Top Tips from Young People

Tip #1 Make positive choices – you can't edit

"Don't do anything bad because you can't edit it"

Boy, 12 years

"Don't stream things that you'll regret later as someone could easily screenshot it and post it elsewhere online so it stays online forever."

Girl, 18 years

"Don't do anything that you could get in trouble with on the live stream because many people have access to it."

Girl, 15 years



Tip #2 Decide who you share with – do you know them?

"People that follow you on the particular social media site can see everything you are doing, so if you don't feel comfortable with them watching you on the stream, then either block them or unfollow them. Especially with strangers! Remember that even if you don't know them, they can still see and hear everything on your stream!"

Girl, 13 years

Tip #3 Protect personal information – especially location



"When you are doing a live stream on any social media platform, make sure you didn't say exactly where you are. For example, if you were at a restaurant, it's okay to say that you're at a restaurant, just not which restaurant you're going to or where it is."

Girl, 11 years

"Be careful of the nature of the video before you click on it to view."

Girl, 17 years

Tip #4 Think carefully before you watch a livestream

"Only watch live streams you think will be appropriate for you and not something your parents wouldn't want you to watch."

Boy, 13 years

Tip #5 Report anything abusive or inappropriate

"My top tip for live streaming is, make it private and report anything you don't like. Don't be the victim of any sort of live stream related bullying and if anybody "goes live" help them understand the consequences."

Boy, 15 years

