Helping children stay safe on social networks, apps and games

The Share Aware teaching resources and lesson plans have been created to provide straightforward, no-nonsense advice which will untangle the web, and let you know how, as a teacher or practitioner, you can show your pupils ways to be safe online.

The central message is that:
**The internet is a great place for children to be. Being Share Aware makes it safer.**

These teaching resources support you to deliver the ‘stay safe’ messages to pupils. They’ve been written in conjunction with teachers, producers of educational resources and experts from the NSPCC – and have been piloted in primary schools to make sure that pupils respond to them.

Introduction to the resource

Continuing our Share Aware campaign, and in conjunction with our work with O2, this resource aims to provide support and guidance that will enable teachers and practitioners in Key Stage 2 settings to deliver messages that will help pupils to stay safe online.

This downloadable resource pack includes:

- Two easy-to-use lesson plans that are appropriate for Key Stage 2.
- Two presentations for you to use in class.
- Supporting information and resources for teachers, pupils and parents/carers.
By using these resources to support high quality PSHE provision, teachers will provide learning opportunities for pupils to:

🌟 know how to keep safe online
🌟 know where to access help and support when things go wrong

While the teaching materials in these resources do not talk directly or explicitly about online abuse, throughout the materials there’s also the important recognition that online abuse can have a significant impact on a pupils’ ability to participate in school life and to reach their potential.

The lesson plans have been written to help to meet the requirements for digital competency and the PSHE curriculum in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. For more information on how they fit into the curriculum, see our website, www.nspcc.org.uk/shareaware-schools.

**O2 and NSPCC Online Safety Helpline**

We have launched an online safety helpline with O2 to help any parent or teacher with online safety questions. For advice and support on parental controls, privacy settings, social networks and more – call the O2 and NSPCC Online Safety Helpline on 0808 800 5002.

**The Preventative Curriculum in Schools**

Schools have an important role in the delivery of the preventative curriculum, teaching children the knowledge and skills they need to protect themselves from all forms of abuse, including peer-to-peer and online abuse, e.g. online bullying and inappropriate sharing caused by children and their peers, as well as sexual grooming and other things which mainly are linked to the behaviour of adults. Current research indicates that that abuse is still under-reported by children, and this is often compounded by barriers to seeking help, including not being listened to or believed by adults.

This resource supports the preventative curriculum, and also provides evidence for OFSTED key judgement ‘Personal development, behaviour and welfare’. OFSTED states that ‘Inspectors will evaluate the extent to which the school successfully promotes and supports pupils’ understanding of how to keep themselves safe.’ Inspectors will want to consider evidence that pupils are able to understand, respond to and calculate risk effectively, for example risks associated with online safety.

**Duty to report**

Schools have a duty to report concerns about abuse to their Designated Senior Child Protection lead, and to follow child protection policies. Further sources of help can be found by accessing social services, the police or NSPCC.
Introduction to the lesson plans

The Share Aware teaching resource consists of two core lesson plans that are suitable for Key Stage 2. Lessons can be delivered together as a pair, or as single, standalone lessons. We’ve also made things clear and straightforward: lessons have been written in an easy-to-follow format, giving learning objectives, intended learning outcomes, resources and methodology.

Preparation and ongoing work

Before carrying out the lesson, we recommend that teachers make sure that they understand the key aspects of online safety and its impact. Some ways of achieving this are to:

- look at the online safety pages on the NSPCC website: nspcc.org.uk/share-aware.
- recognise that online safety could be a sensitive issue, and make sure you are prepared to establish ground rules with the class before you start. These can be things like ‘one person talks at a time’ or ‘no inappropriate personal comments’ and will ensure that pupils feel that it is a safe learning environment where their personal boundaries won’t be breached.
- talk to children about their experiences online.
- prepare by raising awareness with parents and carers that you will be teaching pupils about Share Aware and let them know that pupils will be tasked to share their learning with them as part of a homework exercise.

The lesson may raise questions about online safety that pupils may not feel comfortable asking in class. Make sure you have an envelope or a box available in the classroom where at some point during or after the lesson, pupils can submit their questions about keeping safe online. Tell them that their questions will be responded to either during the lesson, afterwards, or in the next lesson they have.
The websites listed on the previous page should help you respond to these questions, or you could consult with the designated child protection lead. Mention to the pupils that you may tell another adult in school about their question if it makes you worried about their wellbeing.

The lesson plan is also a great starting point for additional work around online safety – it may be useful for the children to work in groups and produce presentations about what they learnt for delivery to the younger classes at the school.

Classroom Practice

The topic area covers some sensitive areas and can sometimes be challenging for both children and staff. So it's key to bear in mind that it is likely that some members of the group/class will have experienced things that have upset them online, or might know someone who has.

It's also important to remind children of where they can go to talk or get help if they need. Remind the pupils of who they can talk to in school and about Childline (0800 1111). You and any other member of staff must be available to talk and be prepared for any disclosures that might be made (allow time after the group session for individual children to speak to you should they wish).

Responding to disclosure

As a result of the topic content, a child might disclose that they are suffering from abuse, or are aware of it happening to others. Any disclosure of abuse should be treated as a potential child protection concern, and reported to the designated child protection lead in line with the school’s procedures.

Points to remember when listening to and dealing with disclosure:

- If the child discloses something that has happened online, treat this as seriously as you would if it was offline.
- Actively listen, do not look shocked or disbelieving.
- Stay calm.
- Take what they are saying seriously.
- Do not ask for detail.
- Reassure them that they are doing the right thing.
- Do not promise to keep secrets.
- Tell them that you will have to share this information.
- Explain what will happen next.
- Be familiar with your child protection procedures.
- Record the information as quickly as possible – facts not opinion.
- Sign and date everything you record.
- Get support for yourself.
If you’re unsure of the procedures speak to your designated child protection lead, social services or NSPCC.

For further information please go to: nspcc.org.uk

Net Aware
www.net-aware.org.uk

There are always new social networks, apps and games to be aware of and it can be hard to keep up to date with them.

Net Aware provides an overview of 50 of these sites and apps, looking at the ease of sign up, appropriate age, appropriateness of content and key risks. The sites were reviewed by an NSPCC panel of over 500 parents and over 2,000 young people.

Through the website, you can also sign up to the Net Aware newsletter to receive updates on the newest sites and apps to be aware of.

Sessions for parents from O2 and the NSPCC

Arguably parents have the biggest role to play in keeping their children safe online. However, we also know some parents feel their children know more about the online world than they do and therefore don’t feel confident in speaking to their children about online issues. To help keep parents’ knowledge up to date, the NSPCC and O2 are delivering sessions for parents in schools across the country. Run by O2 tech experts, and NSPCC staff, these will equip and empower parents with the skills they need to have impactful conversations with their children about how to be safe online.

If you would like more information or would like to register for one of these sessions please visit www.nspcc.org.uk/o2

Key information for parents

The Share Aware lessons are best supported by similar conversations with parents or carers. In the lesson we have suggested children take the NSPCC Share Aware leaflet home with them to discuss as homework – these can be obtained for free from nspcc.org.uk/shareaware-schools

You can also involve parents/carers by telling them about Share Aware via a letter or your schools newsletter. Below is some suggested text for this.

This term, we will be teaching pupils to be Share Aware. The Share Aware teaching resources were created by the NSPCC, in partnership with O2 and in conjunction with education specialists, to teach children how to be safe online.
The simplest ways that parents can help keep their child safe online is to have ongoing, open and honest conversations with them and get to know their online world. You can make it as easy and regular as asking them what they have been up to at school. The NSPCC’s Share Aware campaign has all the support and advice you need: www.nspcc.org.uk/share-aware

Help your child think about who sees what they share, and compare it to what they would be happy to share offline. Discuss privacy and location settings and why they are important. Explore sites and apps with your child, which is a great way of sparking conversations and also for you to understand their online world.

It’s good for parents to stay up to date with the latest sites and apps their child uses which is easy to do through the NSPCC’s site, Net Aware: www.net-aware.org.uk

If you need technical help try calling the O2 and NSPCC Online Safety Helpline. It provides practical advice or support in setting up parental controls, adjusting privacy settings, understanding social networks and more. Call free on 0808 800 5002.

Online safety resources
★ NSPCC Online Safety website: www.nspcc.org.uk/onlinesafety
★ O2 and NSPCC partnership: www.02.co.uk/nspcc
★ Net Aware, an overview of the sites, apps and games young people use, and the Net Aware newsletter: www.net-aware.org.uk/
★ O2 and NSPCC Online Safety Helpline for parents to call for technical advice 0808 800 5002
★ O2 and NSPCC Online Safety workshops for parents – Sign up here: www.nspcc.org.uk/o2