

Mini presentation 1 script - Are all identities equal online?

Target audience

Children aged 14-18

Timing

10-15 minutes

Preparation

Familiarise yourself with the other documents included in this pack.

Optional Starter - Run the Ground Rules activity from the 'Establishing a safe and supportive learning environment' document.

Resources

- 14-18s Mini presentation 1 – Are all identities equal online?

If you would like to complete an offline activity:

- Appendix 1
- Appendix 2a and 2b

Lesson outcomes

Learners will be able to:

- Reflect on the different online experiences of individuals and groups, and consider whether everyone feels welcome, included, and fairly treated online.
- Consider what diversity and equality looks like online.
- Reflect on whether there is a problem with how identity is represented or misrepresented online, and offer suggestions for how this could be tackled.

Free to be ME



Slide 1

Title slide



Slide 2

During this session we will be thinking about whether all identities are equal online and whether some people have more negative online experiences than others.



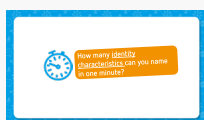
Slide 3

What is an identity?

Discuss, then click to reveal:

From our gender, ethnicity and age to our experiences and behaviour, every aspect of our life can form part of our identity.

We can have many different identities which come together to form who we are, and we can create, adapt and change our identity when we choose.



Slide 4

How many identity characteristics can you name in one minute?

Answers may be based on but not be limited to:

- Gender
- Country of origin
- Countries lived in
- Ethnicity
- School
- Age
- Physical features
- Disabilities
- Hobbies, likes or interests
- Pop culture and slang terms, e.g. 'gen Z, millennials.'



Slide 5

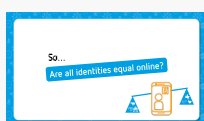
Which identities do you think are always represented positively online and which are not?

Discuss and take some answers.

This activity has also been provided as an offline worksheet for young people to reflect individually before discussing ([Appendix 1](#)).

Note to educators

Refer to the '[Handling sensitive topics and disclosures](#)' document in the Educators Pack for support in facilitating these discussions.



Slide 6

So, are all identities equal online?

Discuss the above using follow on questions:

- Is this fair?
- Why does it happen?
- Does it only happen online?



Slide 7

Now we are going to see how much we really know about equality and diversity online.

Click through the next 7 slides to complete the quiz or use the extended quiz in [Appendix 2a](#) and [2b](#) which has a further 7 questions to explore.



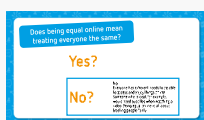
Slide 8

What is the most common language used online?

You can see the top 10 languages spoken worldwide offline. Which of these, if any, do you think might be the most used online?

Click to reveal answer.

The most common used language online is English.



Slide 9

Does being equal online mean treating everyone the same?

Click to reveal answer.

No. Everyone has different needs to be able to access and enjoy things online. A d/Deaf person, for example, may need subtitles when watching a video. Being equal online is all about giving people the support they need to have an equal and fair experience.

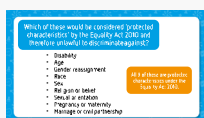


Slide 10

What does it mean to see diversity online?

Click to reveal answer.

True diversity online should mean everyone has an online space where they feel welcome, included, represented and fairly treated, as long as it does not harm anyone else.

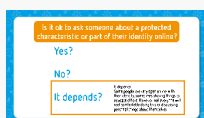


Slide 11

Which of these would be considered 'protected characteristics' by the Equality Act 2010 and therefore unlawful to discriminate against?

Click to reveal answer.

All 9 of these are protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010.

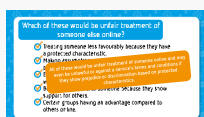


Slide 12

Is it ok to ask someone about a protected characteristic or part of their identity online?

Click to reveal answer.

It depends. Some people are very open online with their identity, sometimes sharing things to educate others. However, not everyone will feel comfortable doing this or discussing personal things about themselves.



Slide 13

Which of these would be unfair treatment of someone else online?

Click to reveal answer.

All of these would be unfair treatment of someone online and may even be unlawful or against a service's terms and conditions if they show prejudice or discrimination based on protected characteristics.



Slide 14

Does society have a problem with how identity is presented online?

Note for educators

Either use this question as a discussion point after the quiz or as a lead in to the next few slides, which discuss representation online.



Slide 15

Much has been written online and in the media about representation of different groups.

Read headlines and discuss learners' opinions, experiences and knowledge of them.

Key questions

- Why does representation matter?
- What impact does proper representation have now and in the future?
- Why does misrepresentation happen?
- Does it only happen online?



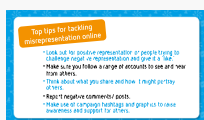
Slide 16

So how can we challenge misrepresentation online?

Use the word cloud to stimulate discussion about different groups before clicking through to the top tips on the next slide.

Note for educators

Misrepresentation occurs when someone has given a wrong, inaccurate or misleading account of what a person or group is like. Sometimes misrepresentation can occur through the portrayal of stereotypes.



Slide 17

Top tips for tackling misrepresentation online:

- ▶ Look out for positive representation or people trying to challenge negative representation and give it a 'like.'
- ▶ Make sure you follow a range of accounts to see and hear from others.
- ▶ Think about what you share and how it might portray others.
- ▶ Report negative comments/ posts.
- ▶ Make use of campaign hashtags and graphics to raise awareness and support for others.



Slide 18

We need to all make an effort to make the online world FREE and be a place where everyone feels...

F – Fairly treated

R – Represented

E – Equal

E – Empowered

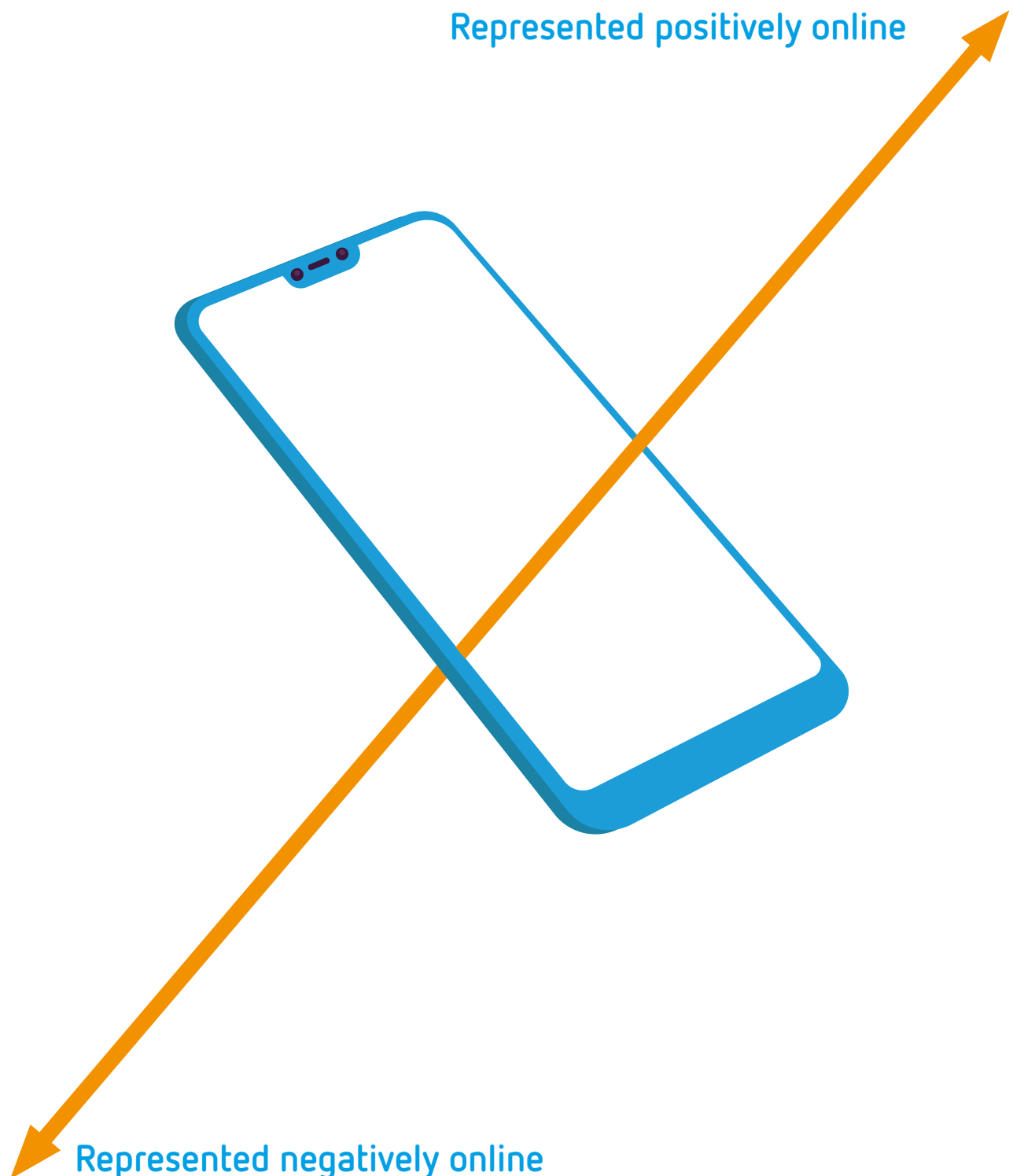
So how will you make the online world a more equal place?

Take some answers if learners' feel comfortable to share, or leave this question with learners to think about independently.

Appendix 1

Which identities do you think are always represented positively online and which are not?

Using the different identities, you have just discussed place these on the scale below. Add any notes or explanations to explain why you have placed differently on the scale.



Appendix 2a

The online identity quiz – how well do you know 'equality' and 'diversity' online?



1. How many people have access to the internet worldwide?

- ☐ a) Over 7 billion
- ☐ b) Over 4 billion
- ☐ c) Between 3 and 4 billion



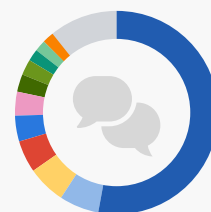
2. How long does an average person spend online each day?

- ☐ a) 6 hours
- ☐ b) 12 hours
- ☐ c) 3.5 hours



3. What is the most common language used online?

- ☐ a) Chinese
- ☐ b) English
- ☐ c) French
- ☐ d) German
- ☐ e) Russian
- ☐ f) Spanish



4. Women are less likely to use the internet than men.

- ☐ a) True
- ☐ b) False



5. Does being equal online mean treating everyone the same?

- ☐ a) Yes
- ☐ b) No



6. Does being equal online mean that everyone should be able to access everything?

- ☐ a) Yes
- ☐ b) No
- ☐ c) It depends



7. Does everyone have the right to say what they want online?

- ☐ a) Yes
- ☐ b) No
- ☐ c) It depends



8. What is diversity?

- ☐ a) Recognising that we all have things which make us similar and different from others
- ☐ b) Showing a range of different people included and represented in different things
- ☐ c) Showing respect to others who are different to you



9. What does it mean to see diversity online?

- ☐ a) Seeing only people from a certain background or culture commenting on things which relate to them
- ☐ b) Seeing a variety of different backgrounds, mindsets and identities shown online through posts, adverts, accounts, comments etc.
- ☐ c) Making sure that everyone has their own separate space to be themselves away from others
- ☐ d) Not allowing people to discuss things which don't relate directly to them



10. Which one of these shows misrepresentation of identity online?

- ☐ a) Advertising online games, services and apps as only for a particular gender
- ☐ b) Showing a particular group or individual in a negative context
- ☐ c) Never showing a particular group online



11. Which of these would be considered 'protected characteristics' by the Equality Act 2010 and therefore unlawful to discriminate against?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="radio"/> a) Disability | <input type="radio"/> f) Religion or belief |
| <input type="radio"/> b) Age | <input type="radio"/> g) Sexual orientation |
| <input type="radio"/> c) Gender reassignment | <input type="radio"/> h) Pregnancy and maternity |
| <input type="radio"/> d) Race | <input type="radio"/> i) Marriage and civil partnership |
| <input type="radio"/> e) Sex | |



12. Is it ok to ask someone about a protected characteristic or part of their identity online?

- ☐ a) Yes
- ☐ b) No
- ☐ c) It depends



13. Which of these would be unfair treatment of someone else online?

- ☐ a) Treating someone less favourably because they have a protected characteristic
- ☐ b) Making assumptions about someone based on protected characteristics
- ☐ c) Excluding someone because of who they are friends with
- ☐ d) Being hateful towards someone because they show support for others
- ☐ e) Certain groups having an advantage compared to others online



14. Would social media allow someone to post hate speech online?

- ☐ a) Yes
- ☐ b) No
- ☐ c) It depends

Appendix 2b

The online identity quiz – how well do you know ‘equality’ and ‘diversity’ online? ANSWERS

b)

1. How many people have access to the internet worldwide?

Over 4 billion people now have access the internet worldwide. That is over half of the world’s population and data shows that nearly a quarter of a billion new users came online for the first time in 2017 alone. (Source: wearesocial.com/us/blog/2018/01/global-digital-report-2018)

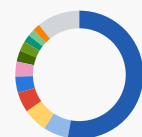
a)

2. How long does an average person spend online each day?

The average internet user spends around 6 hours each day online – that’s roughly one-third of their waking lives. If we add this together for all 4 billion of the world’s internet users, we spent a staggering 1 billion years online in 2018 alone.

b)

3. What is the most common language used online?



English (52.9%)

a)

4. Women are less likely to use the internet than men.

In least developed countries (LDCs), women are 33% less likely than men to use the internet.

(Source: www.internetociety.org/blog/2018/10/gender-equality-a-mouse-click-away/)

b)

5. Does being equal online mean treating everyone the same?

No. Everyone has different needs to be able to access and enjoy things online. A d/Deaf person, for example, may need subtitles when watching a video. Being equal online is all about treating people fairly.

c)

6. Does being equal online mean that everyone should be able to access everything?

It depends. Not everything online is suitable for all ages and some things are more private than others. Everyone has the right to access age appropriate mainstream content online.

c)

7. Does everyone have the right to say what they want online?

It depends. Freedom of expression is our fundamental right protected under Article 10 of the Human Rights Act 1998. This includes the expression of views that may shock, disturb or offend the deeply-held beliefs of others.

However, freedom of expression does not protect statements that discriminate against, harass, or incite violence and hatred against other persons and groups, particularly because of their race, religious belief, gender or sexual orientation. Comments of this nature would be considered a hate crime.



8. What is diversity?

All these things make up the term ‘diversity’ and you may have more ideas which could be included as well.

Appendix 2b

The online identity quiz – how well do you know 'equality' and 'diversity' online? ANSWERS

b)

9. What does it mean to see diversity online?

Seeing a variety of different backgrounds, mindsets and identities shown online through posts, adverts, accounts, comments etc.

True diversity online should mean everyone has an online space where they feel welcome, included, represented and fairly treated, as long as it does not harm anyone else.

a)

b)

10. Which one of these shows 'misrepresentation of identity online?

- Advertising online games, services and apps as only for a particular gender
- Showing a particular group or individual in a negative context

Misrepresentation is where someone has given a wrong, inaccurate or misleading account of what a person or group is like. Sometimes misrepresentation can occur through the portrayal of stereotypes. Never showing a particular group online or limited examples would be known as under representation.



11. Which of these would be considered 'protected characteristics' by the Equality Act 2010 and therefore unlawful to discriminate against?

All of these are protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010.

c)

12. Is it ok to ask someone about a protected characteristic or part of their identity online?

It depends. Some people are very open online with their identity sometimes sharing things to educate others. However, not everyone will feel comfortable doing this or discussing personal things about themselves.



13. Which of these would be unfair treatment of someone else online?

All of these would be unfair treatment of someone online and may even be unlawful or against a service's terms and conditions if they show prejudice or discrimination based on protected characteristics.

c)

14. Would social media allow someone to post hate speech online?

It depends. Instagram states *'It's never OK to encourage violence or attack anyone based on their race, ethnicity, national origin, sex, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, religious affiliation, disabilities, or diseases. When hate speech is being shared to challenge it or to raise awareness, we may allow it. In those instances, we ask that you express your intent clearly.'*

However, it's important to consider whether sharing hate speech is the most effective way of challenging it. Especially when other people will be exposed to the content despite the positive reason for sharing it.