

Spring Clean Week 2025: Have a digital spring clean

**Stage: P4-S2****Time: 1-2 hours**

Purpose: We want to help young people understand the issues around litter and waste and give them tools to help tackle problems in their local area. In this activity pupils will have a digital spring clean of their online presence.

Introduction to the activity

Following on from our Live Lesson with Yvonne Skipper, we invite pupils to have a digital spring clean to help protect themselves and others when they are online. Although social media applications require pupils to be at least 13 before registering, pupils may have access to accounts via parents, guardians and older siblings. They may also have online profiles on gaming and video sites.

Activity

We recommend pupils complete the following steps to have a digital spring clean:

1. Make a list of all the apps / websites you use that ask for any personal information. This could include:
 - a. Social media
 - b. Messaging apps
 - c. Online gaming
 - d. Online video sites
2. Choose one of the apps / websites on your list. (If pupils do not have anything on their list, they can work with a partner who does have something on their list, or work through the steps and write a plan for what to do when they start using these websites / apps when they get older.)
3. Log on to the app / website and look for privacy settings. Review the privacy settings and make sure that your personal information is not visible to people you do not know.
4. Next, look for location settings. We recommend updating the settings so that your location is not visible at any time.
5. Look at any photos or videos you have added to the app / website. Would you be happy if someone you didn't know saw that photo or video? Is there any information in the photo / video that could let a stranger know where you live or other information that you wouldn't want them to have? If yes, delete those photos and videos.
6. Look at any content you have shared that is about or includes other people. Have you asked for their permission to share that content online? If not, you should either ask for their permission, or delete that content.

Follow up with a discussion in class about what pupils can do if they see something online that upsets them, or that they think could harm someone else. We recommend that they tell an adult that they trust and / or report it to an online site such as Report Harmful Content:

www.reportharmfulcontent.com.