



## Safer Schools Lesson Plan – Age Verification – Lower Secondary



### Crib notes

#### Aim of the lesson:

We are all aware that pupils in our classrooms are using apps which they are much too young for. In order to use these apps, they are providing them with a fake age. For example, a pupil might set up a Facebook account when they were 10, but said they were 15 in order to gain access to the app. This means that when they are 13, they will be aged 18 on the app.

If pupils have done this (and in our research we've found that most have) then at the age of 13 they will be exposed to the content, language and advertising which is designed for an 18-year-old (an adult) on that app.

This lesson is aimed at Lower Secondary pupils who have turned or who are about to turn 13 (the age you need to be to use most popular apps). It points out the dangers of using the incorrect age and the benefits of using their correct age. It also contains a homework to allow your pupils and their parents to check that they are using the correct age for the apps they use.



### Lesson plan

Resources: Age Verification PPT, Age Verification worksheet, Age Verification homework

#### Learning objectives:

- Understand the dangers of using a fake age online.
- Understand the benefits of using a real age online.



## **Teaching:**

**Slide 1 and 2:** Title page and L.O.

**Slide 3:** Hands up who uses social media?

The slide contains icons for (from top left to bottom right) Instagram, Facebook Messenger, Facebook, TikTok, YouTube, WhatsApp and Snapchat

How old do you need to be to use these apps? (You need to be 13+ to use most of these apps. 16+ to use WhatsApp)

**Slide 4:** Be honest...who has used a fake age to sign up for a fake social media account.

Prompt pupils – Who used Snapchat before they were 13? Who used TikTok before they were 13?

**Slide 5:** Now that you're over 13, you can use many Social Media platforms

- This includes Snapchat, Instagram, Twitter, TikTok, YouTube and Facebook.
- Now that you're old enough – **Why do you think it is important to use your real age?**

Pause for some suggestions – then move on to the next slide to discuss in more detail.

**Slide 6:** Benefits of using your real age

Benefit – Talking to people who are the same age as you

This means you could share similar interests/hobbies and will feel safer when talking to others online.

- If you use your real age you will be able to speak to your peers about similar interests.
- If you use a fake age such as 19 and you try do add a boy or girl who is your actual age – do you think they will accept your friend request??
- If you use a fake age you may be speaking to adults – which isn't safe or fun for anyone.

**Slide 7:** Benefits of using your real age

Benefit – You'll see content appropriate for your age

If you use an adult age, you'll see content that is not appropriate for you.

You could miss out on fun, viral posts or videos which are aimed at your age group.

- You will receive videos and posts which are more suitable for your age.
- You don't want to miss out on the latest TikTok or YouTube viral sensation – make sure you use the correct age.

### Slide 8: Benefits of using your real age

Benefit – You will have access to the appropriate settings and filters

On many social media sites they have even better safety settings and filters for users under the age of 18.

This means you can be safer online and are much less likely to see any inappropriate content.

- [Adults privacy settings differ from that of 13-17 year olds](#)



### Task:

#### Slide 9: Scenarios

We're going to look at some scenarios together. You need to use your worksheet to write about each scenario.

##### Part 1

Discuss the situation with your group and write down any potential dangers you can think of.

##### Part 2

I want you to give me an example of a similar experience you or your friends have had (*Remember this will be totally anonymous*).

[Use the Age Verifications worksheet alongside the screen recordings and prompts on slide 10 and 11.](#)

#### Slide 10: Scenario 1 ([Pupils respond to this scenario on their worksheet](#))

This is James' YouTube. He was 11 when he signed up for an account saying he was 18.

[\(Do NOT click through to the potential dangers below until after the pupils have completed the worksheet\)](#)

##### Potential Dangers:

- Advert targeted at adults
- Content for 18+
- Less options for filtering settings

#### Slide 11: Scenario 2 ([Pupils respond to this scenario on their worksheet](#))

Amy signed up for Instagram when she was 10 and said she was 15. Now she's 15 and her Instagram says she's 20.

[\(Do NOT click through to the potential dangers below until after the pupils have completed the worksheet\)](#)

##### Potential Dangers:

- Friend requests from adults
- Advert targeted at adults

- Less options for filtering settings



## Additional Resources:

Homework task – Age Verification

You will find the [Age Verification Homework in your lesson resources PDF](#)

This task allows pupils to work alongside their parent/carer to talk about the apps they use and to allow the parents to change their age on the app to their real age. (see below)

	Do you use this app? (✓ or X)	How old do you need to be to use this app?	What age are you currently using on the app?	I am now using the correct age on this app (signed by parent)
Snapchat				
Instagram				
TikTok				
YouTube				
Facebook				
WhatsApp				