



PROTECTING YOUR DIGITAL PROFILE

This worksheet is designed to accompany the film 'Protecting Your Digital Profile', a film about a young girl who applies for a Saturday job in a clothes shop but is shocked to see that her prospective employer has seen her social network pages and things she's posted on the internet. We've used a fictitious social network site called MyMates for the purpose of this film/activity.

We've put together some talking points and activities that you can work through with young people, either in classroom or at home with your own children.

Pre-film discussion

- Why are social networking sites so popular with young people? (Facebook, Twitter etc)
- How did we exchange information about ourselves before social networking sites came along?

Activity 1: Role play

Who else could use Amy's MyMates pages in a damaging way? Script and act out a scene in which another 'outsider' uses Amy's pages to their advantage. We have used 'Digital dirt sticks – think about how you act online' as the end caption to the film - Think up a new end caption for your play with a similar message.

Activity 2: Scrap book

Look through newspapers and magazines and see if you can find stories about people who have shared too much information about themselves on the internet and maybe gotten into trouble. Put together a scrapbook and share with others.

Talking points

- How could Amy improve her chance of success at her next job interview?
- Think about the things you post on your pages and do the 'newspaper test' – Would you be happy if those pictures and comments were posted on the front page of a national newspaper for everyone to see? Would you be embarrassed?

- Do you think the things you post are really private between just you and your friends? Who else might see them?
- Think about who your friends really are. Do you accept friend requests from people you don't know that well or are 'friends of friends'? Why do you accept them?
- In the film, Amy had posted some nasty comments about another girl, Brenda Sharp – how do you think Brenda feels about having horrible things written about her on the web for all to see? What if it were you? How would you feel?

Learning outcome

The things you post online are like a digital shadow and you need to think beyond the here and now. What's funny now might be inappropriate later. Employers do internet searches on candidates and things you posted a long time ago can still come back and haunt you. As the film says – digital dirt sticks; think about how you act online.