

Media Navigator

6 lessons taught in Year 7

Training requirement: 1 day

These lessons increase understanding about the link between media literacy (the ability to access analyse, and create media) and lived experiences of students. The lessons define concepts of media, media literacy and social media. Students learn to recognise and explore the differences between fantasy and reality, examining reality television and possible misrepresentation of everyday life and blurring of boundaries. The focus is on the benefits and risks associated with social media – and how to make the most of powerful tools (such as Snapchat and Twitter for example) whilst staying safe and ensuring others are safe too. Students consider how mediums can be used to enhance social interaction and a sense of community, as well as the potential risks. Students create an identity map and connect this to their own online identities and goals in life. The skills learnt in the lessons transfer to new and evolving media.

Lesson One

Introduction to Media Literacy and Social Media

Lesson Two

Fantasy and Reality

Lesson Three

Advantages and Disadvantages of Social Media and Setting Boundaries

Lesson Four

Benefits of Social Media

Lesson Five

Creating Identity Maps – How I Want To Be On Social Media

Lesson Six

Presenting Identity Maps – Feedback From My Peers

Good to Know

This element was developed for Healthy Minds by the Media Literacy Project in partnership with Bounce Forward. The Media Literacy Project was a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to improving Media Literacy with over 20 years' experience.

Media Navigator has been specifically designed for UK students and includes relevant media examples that reflect their experience. Key to the approach is a constructive and positive attitude towards the media and the role it plays in young people's lives. The lessons enable students to engage in a dialogue about the inherent risks in media and to make their own decisions about how they are going to manage these risks in order to positively interact with the world through all forms of media.

This element of the curriculum is supported by Media Influences – an 8 week curriculum suited to Year 8 which explores the role media plays in self-image and decision making.