Bee Smart

Supporting online safety and wellbeing

Hate Speech

Register

Before we start, please use your smartphone to scan the QR code and register.

Agenda

- Overview | fast facts on topic
- Let’s Discuss it
- Practical take aways
- Interactive quiz
- Exploring resources

Overview: Fast facts

Facts on online use

Just over half of social media users aged 16-24 thought they spent too much time using social media apps or sites

68% of 16-24 year olds agree that the benefits of being online outweigh the risks

19% of 16-24 year olds only use a smartphone to get online

Facts on online use

88% play online games

4783

Per million

The UK has the biggest number of cybercrime victims per million globally – 4783, **a rise of over 40% on 2022 figures.**

81% think about the truthfulness of factual information online

Facts facts on: Hate speech & hate crime

1. Which of the following is NOT legally a type of hate crime?

a. Demonstrating hostility based on sexual orientation
b. Demonstrating hostility based on religion.
c. Demonstrating hostility based on place of birth.
d. Demonstrating hostility based on disability.
e. Demonstrating hostility based on race

Facts facts on: Hate speech & hate crime

2. **True or False?** Is this true or false? Racist hate crimes in the UK rose to over 100,000 in 2022.

TRUE

Facts facts on: Hate speech & hate crime

3. What percentage of 16–24-year-oldsin the UK have seen something hateful or inappropriate online in the last 12 months?

a. 7%

b. 15%

c. 54% ✔

d. 73%

Let’s Discuss it

Let’s Discuss it: Hate Speech

Scenario description: Immigration

Ahmed sees a post on Facebook complaining about the growing number of Polish people who are now living in his town. It suggests that they are taking jobs away from “local people” and that they are also responsible for a recent spate of burglaries that have taken place in the town.

The post says that the local community should stand together to combat the invasion and is calling people to attend a march in the town next weekend. The post has been liked hundreds of times and some of the comments are particularly aggressive and violent and are using very derogatory language to describe people from Poland and also other minority groups within the area.

Let’s Discuss it: Choose an action

What should Ahmed do in response to the post?

1. Respond and call out what is being said.
2. Share the post with friends, condemning it and suggesting that they try to disrupt the march.
3. Report the post to Facebook and to the local police.
4. Try to identify the users who have liked or re-shared the post in order to point out that they are wrong and that what they are saying is unacceptable.

Can you think of anything else?

Let’s Discuss it: See consequences

Based on the actions, these are the potential consequences

1. The advice with regards to hate speech is that we should not remain silent wherever possible, even when it is others who are targeted. We should speak up calmly but firmly and call it out in order to make clear that we don’t agree with what is being said. Where possible we should also try and refute information with facts and evidence with sources to back up what we are saying. Sharing the content with others is potentially risky as they could believe the content and also share it more widely which could give credence to the mis or disinformation.

2. Whilst it is understandable for people to feel strongly about this sort of behaviour, attempting to disrupt the march could place you and friends in a dangerous situation, it is better to alert authorities to what is planned and let them take appropriate action.

Let’s Discuss it: See consequences

Based on the actions, these are the potential consequences

3. Reporting/flagging the content is important – social media platforms have community guidelines/standards and hate speech is not allowed and will be removed.

4. There is little point in targeting individuals, it is more effective to respond calmly to the main post (see point 1).

Can you think of any others?

Let’s Discuss it: More questions

Other potential questions and consequences

What is hate speech?

- Hate speech is usually defined as speech that attacks a person or group on the basis of attributes such as race, religion, ethnic origin, national origin, sex, disability, sexual orientation or gender identity.

- There is an argument that hate speech can be a pre-cursor to an outbreak of mass violence and there are some examples from history that would suggest that this is true. For example, before the Rwanda genocide that took place in1994, Tutsi people were referred to as cockroaches.

Let’s Discuss it: More questions

Other potential questions and consequences

What is the best way to deal with hate speech?

- Blocking or trying to get content removed can be effective but can also be frustrating as platforms are not always going to remove material that we find offensive. Counterspeech is often seen as a good alternative or something that can be done alongside reporting. This means posting an alternative, polite and non-aggressive response to what has been posted. Using empathy, saying you feel sorry for the victims etc. is helpful.

Let’s Discuss it: Summary Highlight

The Council of Europe states that hate speech poses grave dangers for the cohesion of a democratic society, the protection of human rights and the rule of law.

If left unaddressed it can lead to acts of violence and conflict on a wider scale. It defines hate speech as an extreme form of intolerance which contributes to hate crime. Under-reporting of hate speech is a real problem with many victims fearing retaliation or believing that authorities will not take them seriously if they do seek help.

Practical take-aways

Practical take-aways

Summary actions to tackle the issue

Hate Speech – What is it?

- The legal definition of hate speech varies from country to country. In some countries, hate speech is a criminal offense. In other countries, it is not a crime but may be regulated by civil law.
- The law in the UK recognises 5 types of hate crime on the basis of:
  - Race
  - Religion
  - Disability
  - Sexual orientation
  - Transgender identity

Practical take-aways

Summary actions to tackle the issue

Hate Speech – What is it?

- Online hate speech can be harmful because it can:
  - Promote violence or hatred against a person or group
  - Create a climate of fear and intimidation
  - Lead to offline violence
  - Damage the reputation of a person or group
  - Make it difficult for people to participate in online spaces

Practical take-aways

Summary actions to tackle the issue

Hate Speech – What is it?

- Hate speech can take many forms, including:
  - Verbal abuse, such as name-calling, threats, and insults
  - Written abuse, such as graffiti, emails, and social media posts
  - Physical abuse, such as assault and vandalism
  - Visual abuse, such as cartoons, posters, and videos

Practical take-aways: Prevent

Summary actions to tackle the issue

- Consider carefully who or what you follow online? Some people and organisations are known to use hate speech and to target specific groups. In many cases they will not be given a platform on mainstream sites but there are other online spaces where they are able to speak freely. Avoid these sites to prevent being exposed to hate speech.

- Always think carefully about what you post yourself, expressing anger or frustration online is never a good idea – if you are upset about something it can be better to wait before you post or better still, speak to someone rather than communicating online.

Practical take-aways: Protect

Summary actions to tackle the issue

- If you see hate speech then resist the temptation to pass this onto to others, even if you are appalled by what you are seeing. Giving airtime to people who share this sort of content is exactly what they want –even if you are doing it to highlight how wrong it is.

- If you see what you believe to be hate speech propaganda, then you can look to verify whether the content is reliable or not. You could use a reverse image look-up (e.g. Google lens or Tineye) to see where the image originates from.

- Many platforms will provide tools to help you to control what you are seeing online. It is possible to tell some social media sites that you are not interested in particular types of content – you can also block or mute accounts/users, so you won’t keep seeing their posts in your feed. This can help you to shape the algorithm and have more control over what you see.

Practical take-aways: Resolve

Summary actions to tackle the issue

- It is important to speak up against hate speech when you see it. Call it out calmly and make clear that you disagree with what is being said. You should only do this if you feel safe and confident to do so. Ideally, we should feel able to be upstanders and speak out against this type of behaviour as opposed to being a bystander. However, it is also possible to be an active bystander and report it to someone else to intervene on your behalf.

- If possible, you could counter the hate speech with counter-speech. You can post positive content that will undermine the hate speech and promote tolerance, equality, and truth.

- Report any hate speech that you see online. Most platforms that allow others to post content will have policies and community standards that will prohibit hate speech. Reporting any such content should result in it being removed from the platform quickly.

Interactive Quiz

Interactive Quiz

1. What is the best way to deal with hate speech?

A. Report the content to the platform.

B. If possible, share some counter-speech.

C. Block whoever is sharing the hate speech.

D. All of the above.

Interactive Quiz

2. Which of the following is NOT an example of hate speech in legal terms?

A. Showing hostility towards someone in legal terms because of their accent.

B. Showing hostility or prejudice towards someone because of their race.

C. Showing hostility or prejudice towards someone because of their religion.

D. Showing hostility or prejudice towards someone because of their sexual orientation.

Interactive Quiz

3. What does it mean to have freedom of expression?

A. You can freely express yourself online with no consequences.

B. You cannot be prosecuted for criticising your government.

C. You can share controversial opinions publicly on social media.

Interactive Quiz

4. Why do people engage in online hate?

A. To express their own hatred and bigotry.

B. To intimidate or threaten others.

C. To spread disinformation and propaganda.

D. To encourage others to be more inclusive.

E. All of the above.

Interactive Quiz

5. What are some of the negative consequences of online hate?

A. It can make people feel unsafe and unwelcome online.

B. It can lead to violence and discrimination.

C. It empowers people to fight back.

D. It can damage a person’s reputation.

E. All of the above.

Explore resources: Hate Speech

Where to go for additional advice and support

Online hate – facts and advice – Internet Matters

UN Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech- #NoToHate

Information from CPS on hate crime

If you have been affected by any of the issues discussed in today's session, here is a list of helpful and trusted resources and organisations.

You can also speak to your social worker or personal advisor for guidance and support.

Explore resources: Hate Speech

Where to go for additional advice and support

Resources for adults working with children and young people – Hacking Hate

Support for those who hav witnessed or been affected by hate crime– Stop Hate UK

Support with reporting issues online - Report harmful content

Explore resources: Hate Speech

Where to go for additional advice and support

How to report hate speech online – Internet Matters

Campaign against hate – Hope Not Hate

Take the evaluation survey

If you completed the first Bee Smart survey, please use your smartphone to scan the QR and complete the second survey.