

Keep Your Passwords Private

40 minutes

Cyber Safety

WHAT THIS LESSON DOES

In this lesson, you'll explore why passwords are crucial for protecting your online accounts. Learn the risks of sharing passwords, who to avoid sharing with, and practical tips to keep your passwords safe and secure.

WHAT STUDENTS SHOULD BE ABLE TO DO

- Understand the purpose and importance of passwords in protecting online accounts and personal information.
- Recognize the potential dangers and consequences of sharing passwords.
- Identify situations and individuals with whom passwords should never be shared.
- Know how to respond if someone asks for their password.
- Learn strategies for protecting and maintaining the security of their passwords.
- Develop an attitude of responsibility and caution when it comes to handling their personal online security.

BEFORE THE LESSON

- One device per pupil, or one per pair, with the lesson site open and the chat simulator in step 7 loaded and tested beforehand.
- Decide in advance who your trusted adults are in school language, so pupils have a concrete answer when the lesson says report to a trusted adult.
- Have a projector ready so the class can talk through the key-and-lock idea together before pupils work on their own.

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HOW THE LESSON RUNS

Introduction

Why do we have passwords?

What can happen if we share our passwords?

Who Should you never Share your password with?

What if someone asks for your password?

How can we protect our passwords?

Chat Simulator

Conclusion

TEACHING MOVES

1. Introduction. Open with the key analogy out loud: you would not give a stranger the key to your house. Let pupils finish the sentence before they read on.
2. Why do we have passwords? Ask what a password is actually checking for. Draw out that it proves you are really you, not just a rule the website makes up.
3. What can happen if we share our passwords? Name each danger plainly: impersonation, being locked out, stolen information. Ask pupils for a real example of each in games or apps they use.
4. Who Should you never Share your password with? Stress the hardest case: even a trusted friend. Ask why a promise not to tell is not enough protection.
5. What if someone asks for your password? Get pupils to say the refusal line aloud together: sorry, I cannot share my password with anyone. Then confirm the next step is telling a trusted adult.
6. How can we protect our passwords? Model one strong password on the board using mixed case, numbers and a symbol, without using any pupil's real password.
7. Chat Simulator. Let pupils work through the interactive independently, then ask a few to describe how they refused and what they would do next in real life.
8. Conclusion. Close by asking each pupil to say one takeaway aloud to a partner: a danger, a person, or a habit they will remember.

WHAT TO WATCH FOR

- Pupils think it is safe to share a password with a best friend because they trust them. Point out that a friend can be tricked, can fall out with you, or can share it as a joke. The password is unsafe the moment anyone else knows it, no matter how much you trust them.
- Pupils believe an online friend they chat to daily is a safe person to tell. Remind them that people online may not be who they claim to be. Return to step 4 and stress that online acquaintances get the same answer as strangers: no.
- Pupils think refusing to share is rude or will lose them a friend. Rehearse the polite refusal line so it feels normal, and reassure them that a real friend will not pressure them for a password.

DIFFERENTIATION

- Emerging: Pair the pupil with a partner and read each step's key sentence aloud together before they move on. Give them the refusal line on the board to point to during the chat simulator rather than composing their own.
- Developing: Ask them to explain back to you, in their own words, why even a friend should not be told. Let them try the chat simulator once with support, then again independently.
- Proficient: Have them invent a second tricky message the simulator did not use and say how they would respond. Ask them to build a strong password and explain to a partner why each part makes it harder to guess.