MEDIA MATTERS
MODULE 7:

THE RULES AND YOUR RIGHTS

CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

Coimisiún na Meán

ACTIVITY #1

YOUR RIGHTS IN ACTION

You have five rights online under Ireland's Online Safety Framework. But what do they actually look like in real life?

Below are five scenarios. Read each one carefully. For each scenario, decide which right is being affected – and what you could do about it. The first example is done for you.

Name: _____ Class: _____

THE RIGHTS

1. The Right to Report
2. The Right to Privacy
3. The Right to Express Yourself
4. The Right to Information
5. The Right to be Protected from Harm

Note: Coimisiún na Meán is Ireland's media regulator. They help to make sure media services and online platforms based in Ireland follow the rules. While they cannot remove content or restore accounts, they welcome information from the public about when platforms are not following the rules.

If something upsetting happens online, always tell a trusted adult. If you believe content is illegal, report it to the platform and also to An Garda Síochána or Hotline.ie.

SCENARIO 1 (ANSWERED)

A platform's 'Recommended' list keeps showing you the same type of videos over and over. You would like to change what appears, but there is no option to do this and no explanation of how the recommendations work.

Which right is affected?
The Right to Information

What could you do?
Look for information about how the feed works and whether there are settings that allow greater control over recommendations.

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ACTIVITY #1

YOUR RIGHTS IN ACTION

Name: _____ Class: _____

SCENARIO 2

Your brother signs up for a new gaming platform based in Ireland. The platform lets users create their own games and share them with other players. There are lots of videos on this platform. The terms and conditions are 47 pages long, written in complicated language and very hard to find on the website.

Which right is affected? _____

What could you do? _____

_____

SCENARIO 3

Your brother's friend notices that every time she uses a certain app, she sees adverts for products featured in a video she liked. She is 14 years old and the platform knows this as she signed up with the correct date of birth.

Which right is affected? _____

What could you do? _____

_____

SCENARIO 4

You're at your cousin's house and on their account. You see a video online that shows something very upsetting. You look for a way to report it but cannot find any reporting button on the platform.

Which right is affected? _____

What could you do? _____

_____

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ACTIVITY #1

YOUR RIGHTS IN ACTION

Name: _____ Class: _____

SCENARIO 5

Your older sister uploads a video to a platform. A few days later, she checks and it has been removed. There is no message explaining why and no information about what she can do next.

Which right is affected? _____

What could you do? _____

_____

NOW THINK ABOUT IT

Answer the questions below in full sentences.

1. **Were any of the scenarios surprising to you? If so, why?**

_____

_____

2. **Before reading this module, did you know you had these rights? Has anything changed about how you think about these platforms?**

_____

_____

3. **If a platform is not following the rules, who can you contact?**

_____

_____

REMEMBER

Your rights online are not optional extras. They are the law. Knowing your rights is the first step to using them.

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ACTIVITY #2

READ THE SMALL PRINT



Terms and conditions tell you the rules of a platform. By law, they should be easy to find and easy to understand. But are they?

Below is a fictional set of terms and conditions for a made-up platform called **StreamZone**. Some of the T&Cs are within the rules. Some are not. Your job is to spot the difference.

Read each clause carefully. Then tick the box and explain your answer.

Name: _____ Class: _____

CLAUSE 1

'StreamZone may share your personal information, including your name, location and viewing history, with advertising partners at any time.'

☐ Within the rules
☐ Against the rules
☐ Not sure

Why? _____

_____

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ACTIVITY #2

READ THE SMALL PRINT

Name: _____ Class: _____

CLAUSE 2

'If StreamZone removes your content, we will send you a message explaining why within 48 hours. You have the right to appeal this decision.'

☐ Within the rules
☐ Against the rules
☐ Not sure

Why? _____

_____

CLAUSE 3

'StreamZone may use targeted advertising based on your online activity. If you are under 18 and we are aware of this, targeted advertising will not be used on your account.'

☐ Within the rules
☐ Against the rules
☐ Not sure

Why? _____

_____

CLAUSE 4

'By using StreamZone, you agree that we may change these terms at any time without telling you.'

☐ Within the rules
☐ Against the rules
☐ Not sure

Why? _____

_____

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ACTIVITY #2

READ THE SMALL PRINT

Name: _____ Class: _____

CLAUSE 5

'StreamZone's 'For You' feed uses a recommender system. You can find information about how this works in the Help section. You can also choose to turn off personalised recommendations at any time.'

☐ Within the rules
☐ Against the rules
☐ Not sure

Why? _____

_____

NOW THINK ABOUT IT

Answer in full sentences.

1. How many clauses did you mark as 'against the rules'? Were you surprised?

_____

_____

2. Why do you think some platforms write terms and conditions that are hard to understand?

_____

_____

3. What would you do if you found a clause like Clause 1 or Clause 4 on a real platform you use?

_____

_____

REMEMBER

You have the right to information that is clear and easy to understand. If terms and conditions are confusing or hard to find, that is a platform problem – not your fault. You can let Coimisiún na Meán know if a platform is not following the rules.

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ACTIVITY #3

COMPLETE THE SUMMARY

Use the words in the box below to complete the summary of what you have learned in this module.

Name: _____ Class: _____

WORD BANK

rights • report • privacy • appeal • information • harmful • terms • platform • trusted adult • Coimisiún na Meán

1. Everyone has _____ online.

2. If you see _____ or illegal content on a platform, you should be able to _____ it easily.

3. If a platform removes your content without explaining why, you should be able to _____ the decision.

4. When you're old enough to use online platforms, you'll have the right to _____ and stronger protection for your personal information.

5. The _____ and conditions of a platform should be easy to find and understand.

6. If you are worried or unsure what to do, speak to a _____.

7. If you think a platform is not following the rules, a trusted adult can contact _____.

NOW THINK ABOUT IT

1. Which new right surprised you the most?

_____

2. Which right do you think is most important? Explain your answer.

_____

_____

REMEMBER

Knowing your rights is the first step to using them. The more you understand how platforms should treat users, the more confident you'll be online.

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ACTIVITY #4

WORD SEARCH

Find the words below in the word search grid.

Name: _____ Class: _____

O	C	G	N	N	T	H	V	U	F	R	P	W	C	K	G	R
E	A	N	O	A	K	F	L	Z	E	N	N	A	J	X	E	L
F	C	I	I	T	A	P	A	P	P	E	A	L	T	S	I	A
R	O	T	T	N	P	I	O	V	V	J	T	N	P	S	S	G
A	N	R	A	C	Y	R	B	L	Z	G	E	O	S	E	R	E
M	D	O	M	T	T	Q	D	A	E	R	N	U	D	L	O	L
E	I	P	R	I	G	H	T	S	A	S	R	I	I	U	T	L
W	T	E	O	U	D	B	J	P	I	N	E	H	N	R	A	I
O	I	R	F	A	J	T	S	B	G	J	T	R	V	Y	L	P
R	O	S	N	D	G	N	I	M	F	C	N	L	E	C	U	L
K	N	A	I	Q	A	L	C	Z	W	A	I	O	S	A	G	A
S	S	F	L	R	I	L	U	F	M	R	A	H	T	V	E	T
X	R	E	T	T	C	M	H	R	A	J	U	D	I	I	R	F
I	T	T	Y	G	X	G	H	L	C	F	L	P	G	R	I	O
S	Q	Y	H	H	C	O	N	L	I	N	E	I	A	P	J	R
P	R	O	T	E	C	T	E	D	A	Y	T	T	T	G	N	M
F	W	G	T	M	R	C	U	N	Z	B	P	D	E	K	F	S

WORDS TO FIND

RIGHTS	REPORT	TRANSPARENT	SAFETY
RULES	PRIVACY	ILLEGAL	FRAMEWORK
ONLINE	PROTECTED	HARMFUL	INVESTIGATE
PLATFORMS	INFORMATION	REPORTING	CONDITIONS
INTERNET	RESPONSIBILITY	APPEAL	REGULATORS

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Curriculum Links

Wellbeing

Strand

SPHE
Health Education
Media and Digital Wellbeing
Stage 4 – 5th and 6th Class

Key Competencies

DL – Being a digital learner
CL – Being a communicator and using language
AC – Being an active citizen
W – Being well

MODULE 7 – THE RULES AND YOUR RIGHTS

Strand	Wellbeing
Area	Media and Digital Wellbeing
Stage	Stage 4 – 5th and 6th Class
Learning Outcomes	Adopt strategies to promote safe, ethical and responsible use of digital technologies, recognising personal and communal responsibility in fostering a positive, respectful and safer digital environment, and understand safe ways to report inappropriate or harmful behaviours or content. **W, DL, CL** Evaluate the benefits and challenges of digital technology use and reflect on the role and influence of media and popular culture in their lives. **W, DL, CL**
Key Competencies	DL – Being a digital learner CL – Being a communicator and using language AC – Being an active citizen W – Being well
Learning Intentions	Understand the five rights children have online under Ireland's Online Safety Framework; recognise when a platform is or is not following the rules; know how and where to report harmful or illegal content and the role of Coimisiún na Meán.
Success Criteria	I can name the five rights I have online and explain what each one means. I can recognise when a platform's terms and conditions are within the rules or against the rules. I can describe what to do and who to contact if a platform is not following the rules.
Methodologies	Scenario analysis; discussion; evaluating texts (terms and conditions); cloze activity; reflection; vocabulary reinforcement.
Assessment	Written responses; justification of choices; observation; questioning; group discussion.
Differentiation	**Support:** worked example; paired reading of scenarios and clauses; word bank. **Challenge:** rewrite an 'against the rules' clause so it follows the rules; explain which right matters most and why.
Safety Notes	Empowerment-led: pupils are capable users who have rights. Reinforce that a trusted adult should always be told if something upsetting happens online, and that illegal content can be reported to the platform, An Garda Síochána or Hotline.ie. Remind pupils that most platforms require users to be 13 or over.
Teacher Reflection	Pupils identified their rights online, evaluated platform rules against them and demonstrated knowledge of how and where to report concerns.

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Answers

ACTIVITY 1 – YOUR RIGHTS IN ACTION

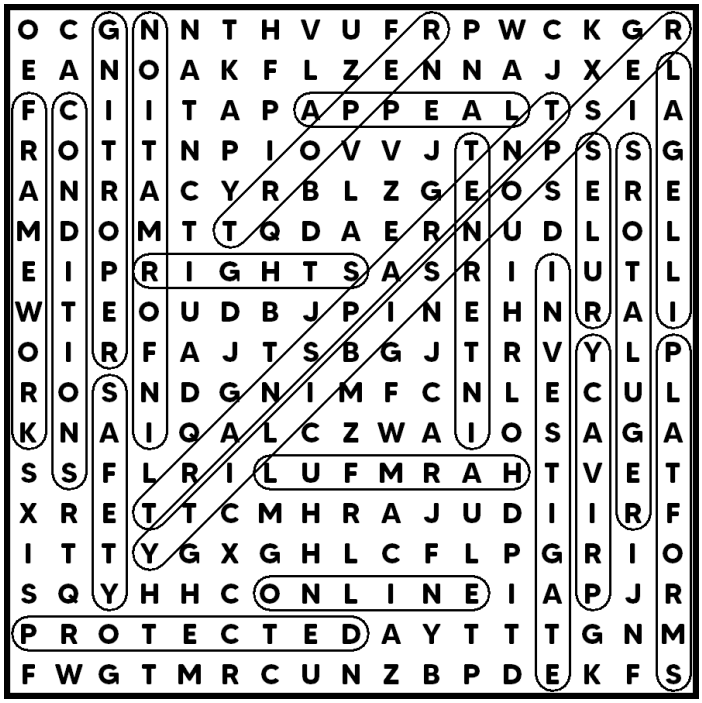
Scenario 1
Right: The Right to Information
Possible action: Look for information about how the feed works and whether there are settings that allow greater control over recommendations.

Scenario 2
Right: The Right to Information
Possible action: Look for a clearer explanation of the terms and conditions or ask a trusted adult for help understanding them.

Scenario 3
Right: The Right to Privacy
Possible action: Review privacy settings and understand that children should receive stronger privacy protections online.

Scenario 4
Right: The Right to Report
Possible action: Seek help from a trusted adult to find the platform's reporting tool and if you can't find it, contact Coimisiún na Meán.

Scenario 5
Right: The Right to Express Yourself
Possible action: She can appeal this decision. If she's not given this chance, she can get in touch with Coimisiún na Meán as this is against the rules. While they can't re-upload the video, they would like to know if platforms are following the rules or not.



ACTIVITY 2 – READ THE SMALL PRINT

Clause 1: Against the rules
Children are entitled to stronger privacy protections.

Clause 2: Within the rules
The platform explains its decision and provides an appeals process.

Clause 3: Within the rules
The clause recognises that targeted advertising should not be used on accounts known to belong to users under 18.

Clause 4: Against the rules
Users should be informed about important changes to terms and conditions.

Clause 5: Within the rules
The platform explains how recommendations work and gives users a choice about personalised content.

ACTIVITY 3 – COMPLETE THE SUMMARY

1. rights
2. harmful; report
3. appeal
4. privacy
5. terms
6. trusted adult
7. Coimisiún na Meán

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