



Teacher Resource

Social Media Ban

Focus Questions

As a class, discuss the stories featured in the episode of BTN Classroom and record the main points of the discussion. Students will then respond to the following focus questions.

Social Media Survey Results

1. What percentage of people that did the BTN survey use social media?
 - a. 8%
 - b. 18%
 - c. 80%
2. What age does the social media ban apply to?
3. What social media platforms have been included in the ban? Give 2 examples.
4. According to the BTN survey, what is the most popular platform used by kids?
5. When does the social media ban start?
6. Do you think the social media ban is a good idea? Give reasons.

PM Press Conference

1. How much will social media companies be fined if they breach the new social media laws?
2. Who is responsible for Australia's online safety?
3. Social media companies will know if you fake your age. True or false?
4. What is the purpose of the Youth Advisory Council?
5. What questions do you have about the social media ban?

International Reactions

1. Australia has some of the toughest social media laws in the world. True or false?
2. Which countries have announced plans to ban under-15s from social media next year?
 - a. Denmark and Malaysia
 - b. Norway and Sweden

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KEY LEARNING

Students will learn more about the social media ban and write a persuasive text, hold a class debate or conduct an opinion poll about the ban.

CURRICULUM

Health & Physical Education – Years 5 & 6

Practise skills to establish and maintain relationships. Plan and practise strategies to promote health, safety and wellbeing.

Digital Technologies – Years 5 & 6

Plan, create and communicate ideas and information, including collaboratively online, applying agreed ethical, social and technical protocols.

English – Year 5

Plan, create, edit and publish written and multimodal texts whose purpose may be imaginative, informative and persuasive, developing ideas using visual features, text structure appropriate to the topic and purpose, text connectives, expanded noun groups, specialist and technical vocabulary, and punctuation including dialogue punctuation.

- c. Italy and Germany
3. What is the UK's new law for social media called?
4. What do the kids in the BTN story think about banning social media?
5. What was surprising about the BTN story?

Quitting Social Media

1. What type of phone does Nick use?
2. How has Patrick set up his phone to make it less addictive?
3. Why don't Patrick and Nick like social media? Give 2 examples.
4. What is the name of the group in the US who have given up social media?
5. What are some benefits of not using social media or smartphones?
6. What are some ways that you can interact with friends that doesn't involve using social media?

Activity: Class Discussion

Discuss the BTN Social Media Ban special with students. Record the main points of the discussion on a mind map. Here are some questions to guide the discussion:

- What is social media? Come up with a class definition.
- What are the pros and cons of social media?
- What do you know about the social media ban being introduced?
- Why is the government introducing the ban?
- Which social media platforms/apps are included in the ban?
- Do you think the ban is a good idea? Will it work? Why or why not?
- Do you have any concerns about the ban?
- How do your friends/classmates feel about it?
- How can kids prepare for the ban?
- How can kids still stay connected with their friends or community once the ban is introduced?
- What questions do you have about the social media ban?



Activity: Class Poll

Hold a poll in your class. Students will conduct their own opinion poll on the issue of whether there should be a ban on kids under 16 using social media.

Working in groups, students will need to decide who their sample group will be and how many people will be polled.

What method will they use to conduct the poll? (Face to face interviews or written responses). Ask students to graph the opinion poll results and then reflect on the results.



Activity: Persuasive Text

Students will explore the issues raised in the BTN Social Media Ban special and develop a persuasive text for or against the following statement: *'Kids under 16 should be banned from using social media'*. Before starting the activity, discuss with students the pros and cons of the social media ban. Refer to the mind map for ideas.

Persuasive writing

Students need to weigh up the pros and cons of the issue then write a short persuasive argument using the following as a guide.

Tips

- Who is your audience? For example, are you directing your argument at kids, teachers, or politicians?
- Explore how language choices can have a big impact on persuading your audience.
- Which language devices give the report credibility and authority?
- Which are designed to create an emotional response in the listener?
- Provide facts and evidence to support your argument.
- Write in the present tense.
- Check your spelling and punctuation.

Use this *Read Write Think* [persuasion map](#) to plan your exposition text.

Introduction

- What is the point you are trying to argue?
Construct an introductory paragraph which states the issue or topic.
- Introduce the arguments that will be developed in the body of the text.

Body

- Construct arguments that support your point of view.
- Each paragraph starts with a topic sentence which introduces each point.
- The rest of the paragraph gives more reasons.
- Arguments can be ordered from strongest to weakest.

Conclusion

- Restate your position on the argument.
- Construct a concluding paragraph that provides a summary of your arguments and a call to action.

Reflection

- How difficult was it to think of points to support one side of the argument?
- Do you think you would have done a better job supporting the other side of the argument?
- Was I able to convince others of my opinion?
- What did you learn from this activity?

Activity: Class Debate

Debating is an activity that helps students improve a range of skills including public speaking, communication skills, research skills, persuasion, confidence, teamwork and critical thinking. Use the following guide to help plan a classroom debate.

Brainstorm

As a class, brainstorm a list of arguments for and against banning social media for under 16s, using a T-chart to record student's responses. Refer back to the mind map for ideas.

Classroom Debate – Should people under 16 be banned from social media?

Divide your class into groups of 6. Each group will then be divided into 2 teams, one representing the affirmative and the other the negative. The team arguing for the topic is called the affirmative and the team arguing against is called the negative, and the team that's judged to make the best argument wins!



For each team there is a 1st speaker, 2nd speaker and 3rd speaker, each with a special role. Each speaker will prepare a 1–2-minute speech. Working together as a team students will choose their 3 best points to argue during the debate, work out their roles and what points each speaker will cover.

To learn more about how debates work watch the BTN High [School Debating](#) story.

Activity: Interview the Prime Minister

Some students in the BTN Social Media Special were given the opportunity to ask the Prime Minister questions about the social media ban at a press conference.

Ask students - If they had the chance to interview Anthony Albanese about the social media ban, what would they ask him?

Students write a list of interview questions, remembering to make them open-ended (can't be answered with a 'yes' or 'no').



Activity: BTN Social Media Stories

Watch these BTN videos to help students understand more about the issues associated with social media.



[BTN Algorithms Explained](#)



[BTN Social Media Ban Q&A](#)



[BTN Age Verification Rules](#)



[BTN Social Media Age](#)



[BTN Social Media Ban](#)



[BTN High - Social Media Isolation](#)



[BTN Age Verification Trial](#)



[BTN Kids Smartphone Age](#)



[BTN Phone Detox](#)

Useful Websites

- [Safer Internet Day](#) – BTN
- [Safer Internet Day 2026](#) – eSafety Commissioner
- [eSafety Young People](#) – eSafety Commissioner
- [Classroom resources](#) – eSafety Commissioner
- [Social Media Ban, Resources for Schools](#) – Kids Helpline
- [Social Media Ban](#) – UNICEF Australia
- [Social Media Ban](#) – BTN
- [Social Media Age](#) – BTN
- [Social Media Ban Q&A](#) – BTN