The Character Curriculum
Flourishing for Life

Y6: Online relationships L1 - What makes a good online friend?	**Learning objective:** - Identify the virtues of a good friend in person and online.	**Key vocabulary:** Isolated, technology, communicate, similarities, ranking **Key virtues:** Respect, honesty, compassion, citizenship
Resources: PowerPoint Diamond 9 cards – qualities of a friend (resource 1) Blank Venn diagrams (can printed from the PowerPoint)	**Statutory links:** Relationships Education (2020) Pupils should know: - That people sometimes behave differently online, including by pretending to be someone they are not. - That the same principles apply to online relationships as to face-to-face relationships, including the importance of respect for others online including when we are anonymous. - The rules and principles for keeping safe online, how to recognise risks, harmful content and contact, and how to report them. - How to critically consider their online friendships and sources of information including awareness of the risks associated with people they have never met. - How information and data is shared and used online.	
Key questions: What are the virtues of a good friend? Are there similarities/differences between the virtues needed to be a good friend in person and a good friend online? What are the similarities/differences between online friendship and friendship in person?	**Learning activities:** **Starter:** Surprising statistics? Show the following statistics from the UK Safer Internet Centre based on a survey of 2,000 young people in 2017: - 54% of respondents said they would feel isolated if they couldn't talk to their friends using technology. - 39% of respondents said that they have met friends online that they wouldn't have met otherwise. Ask children what they think of these statistics and if they reflect their experience. Discuss: - What technology do they use to communicate with their friends? - How regularly do they use technology to communicate with other people? - Do they communicate with people that they don't know in person? - If they do make friends online, how do they do it?	

Activity 1: Online versus offline friendships

What are the similarities and differences between online friendships and friendships in person?

Ask children to complete a Venn diagram showing the similarities and differences.

- Are there any instances when online friendships can be better than friendships in person?
- When might friendships in person be better than friendships online?

Activity 2: Virtues for an online friend

Use the Diamond 9 sorting activity for virtues of a good friend. You may want children to choose their own 9 qualities and rank them, or use the provided virtues on the Diamond 9 template.

Ask children to discuss and justify why they have chosen those particular rankings.

Discuss:

- If we were ranking the virtues for an online friend, would their priorities change?
- Would any qualities be removed or added? Why?
- Do you think it is easier or harder to show these virtues in person or online? Why?

Plenary: Being a good friend online

How do you think you can be a good friend online?

What might being: generous, kind, respectful, trustworthy look like in an online relationship?

Create a picture or mindmap showing what a good friend online would be saying and doing.