

# Magna Carta: My Digital Rights

www.bl.uk/my-digital-rights

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## TEACHERS' NOTES



### A Project Guide for Teachers

#### What is *Magna Carta: My Digital Rights*?

This resource is aimed at Secondary schools and Further Education colleges. Bridging the 25th anniversary of the World Wide Web and the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta, the project encourages young people to debate the issues of rights and responsibilities online.

Between February and May 2015, students around the world were invited to debate topics such as online censorship, cyberbullying and privacy, before submitting a clause to our Magna Carta for the digital age. Today, you can make use of the same teaching resources as we continue to debate the future of the web. Your students might be interested to see how their thoughts align with those submitted to our Magna Carta for the digital age [interactive website](#), where they can also vote for their favourite clauses.

A teacher whose students have taken part in the project writes:

*The Teachers' Notes give those using them a solid basis for creating a lesson or a series of lessons around the themes. I personally think it is great that there is room for teachers to adapt and incorporate these notes into their planning and delivery of lessons.*

Yasmin Mirza, Maria Fidelis Catholic School

#### How to use our resources

We have produced a series of video scenarios and teachers' notes for Key Stage 3, 4 and 5, focusing on the topics of freedom of expression, protection and privacy, and access. Please note that our teachers' notes are suggestive, not prescriptive, and should be used to develop your own lesson plans that are best suited to your class' needs. Please also be aware that some of the articles and external resources may need to be adapted for students of different ages and abilities.

To make the most of our resources:

1. Select your [scenario](#).

2. Use the [teachers' notes](#) to develop your lesson plan.
3. Hold your debate.
4. Use the suggestions for extension activities in the [teachers' notes](#).
5. Continue to explore issues around digital rights, by viewing the British Library's [Magna Carta for the digital age](#).

You can hold as many debates as you wish, making this either a one-off lesson or part of a wider project. If you need to find out more about Magna Carta and its history, visit our dedicated [website](#).

Our scenario films have been developed in partnership with [WebWeWant.org](#).

### **Structuring your debate**

Each of our scenarios can be adapted to best suit your needs. We recommend that you use them as a part of a structured debate. For guidance on setting up a classroom debate, visit:

- <http://idebate.org/training/resources/all>
- <http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/debatinginschools/gettingstarted/index.asp>
- <http://www.parliament.uk/education/teaching-resources-lesson-plans/school-debating-pack/>

### **Writing a clause and further extension exercises**

Have a look at the teachers' notes to find some exciting ideas on how to consolidate and extend you students' learning.

### **Project objectives**

1. To work collaboratively to develop knowledge and understanding about digital rights and responsibilities.
2. To develop skills of enquiry, research and debate.
3. To evaluate and weigh-up different sides to a debate; develop skills in research and collaboration.

### **Project outcomes**

1. All must be able to:
  - Demonstrate clear understanding of key issues surrounding the scenario.
  - Form and defend an argument.
2. Most will be able to:
  - Critically examine their own values and attitudes; acknowledge different opinions within the debate.
  - Research resource material to support their argument.
3. Some might be able to:
  - Produce skilled and nuanced counter argument during the debate.
  - Lead group discussion and decision making.
  - Facilitate selection and synthesis of the class debate.