

Online guidance for the programme for publication on www.speakoutchallenge.com

Safety online

Speeches made by participants in the Regional Finals and Grand Final of **Jack Petchey's "Speak Out" Challenge!** will be posted on websites and social media.

Public speaking builds confidence, but it can also bring challenges. This is particularly true when publishing on social media, especially on highly personal or controversial topics.

The risks are the same as when social media is used for other reasons. The NSPCC [Share Aware](#) gives good general advice.

But there are particular issues we strongly advise participants and their adult supporters to consider:

1. Identification. The participant's name and school will be attached to the video of their speech. That means someone watching the video on the internet or social media could find it easy to get in touch via Facebook or other social media and/or try to meet up.

ADVICE: Use privacy settings online; don't reply to strangers, especially via private direct messaging that others can't see. Never agree to meet. If there is anyone a participant wishes to reply to, involve a parent/guardian or teacher in the response. (This is also true of members of the press - see below). There is good advice available on this from the specialist charity [Childnet](#) and from the [NSPCC](#).

2. Size and identity of the audience. When deciding what to speak about and how much to say remember the video of the speech could go online - so many people, including strangers, may see it. Speakers Trust will take down the video if participants, parents/guardians or teachers request it, but like everything else online it will never completely disappear. So, ask yourself: Is it OK to say this to the world? How will it feel next week? Or next year?

ADVICE: Many participants feel passionately about their topic, particularly if it affects them personally. An example could be homophobia or transphobia, when the participant could be coming out for the first time. This is not necessarily the wrong thing to do, but the welfare of participants is much more important than a speech. The speech will go online making it public. This will be right for some participants but not others. There is a lot of good advice to help think through these issues for example [here](#).

3. Online heckling. Not everyone will agree with a speech or how it is presented, which means a range of positive and negative comments could be posted. Speakers Trust turns off comments on YouTube and moderates other Speakers Trust social media platforms (Twitter, Facebook etc) but once videos are shared anyone could comment.

ADVICE: Use privacy settings when possible; mute people when necessary; ask for help if anything feels threatening. Be particularly careful if the speech is about a controversial, political or personal issue when others could try and use the speech in their arguments. Advice on cyber bullying is available [here](#).

4. Publicity. Members of the press may get in touch directly with participants. We want participants to get maximum credit for their speeches and this could be a great opportunity. However, not all journalists have the best interests of young people in mind.

ADVICE: Contact Speakers Trust immediately and we will assist. This is particularly important when a speech is controversial. Unfortunately, even a seemingly straightforward exchange on social media can be presented in a way that leads to unwelcome interest in a school or participants.

How we will help

At Speakers Trust we subscribe to the [5Rights framework](#), believing that young people should be supported to access digital technologies creatively, knowledgeably and fearlessly.

If a young person (or their parent/guardian) wants us to remove content about them from our site or the social media networks we control, then we will do that promptly.

We will also aim to advise and support in whatever ways we can, working with the school.

You can also contact us on jpspeakout@speakerstrust.org or call the office on 020 7922 7887 (if an emergency / out of office hours please call us on 07714 137 652).