



Title: Pornography (V4)

Level: THIRD

Code: 3.10

Links to Curriculum for Excellence

| Experiences and outcomes | Benchmarks |
|---|---|
| I know that popular culture, the media and peer pressure can influence how I feel about myself and the impact this may have on my actions. HWB3-46b | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifies and explains influence/impact of media, including social media and pornography on self-esteem and decision making. |

Learning intentions

- Young people to reflect and develop their own views on pornography and learn approaches to manage their exposure to images/films they see.
- Young people understand that what is represented in pornography is not ‘real’ but staged and performed.
- Young people understand that they have choices and can choose to not watch pornography.
- Young people begin to think critically about their own relationship with pornography.

Success criteria

- I can talk about the difference between sex as it is portrayed in pornography and sex between consenting adults in a relationship.
- I can express my own developing opinion on pornography.
- I can identify where or who to go to if I have a question or concern.

NOTE: It is estimated that at least one-third of young people starting secondary school will have viewed pornography, by the end of S2 over 95% will have. It is often difficult for adults to understand just how accessible this material is to children and young people. Many young people say that they first see pornography by accident, perhaps through pop ups or watching ‘reaction videos’ on YouTube, that is watching other people react to watching particularly graphic pornography. Children’s (especially boys) earliest exposure to pornography and collective experiences of viewing pornography together may be through the lens of humour rather than eroticism. They may have been sent pornographic images or film by others. It is important to adopt a pragmatic approach and listen to what young people may report viewing without judgement. As with all RSHP discussion, questions should not be personal/about the individual, rather they should be general, about what ‘young people’ use/look at. It is worth remembering that with the ubiquitous nature of pornography young men in particular can conceptualise their first time watching pornography as a ‘rite of passage’.

Across the RSHP resource there are many opportunities to learn about gender and interpersonal relationships, these other activities will also stress key messages about respect, non-violence and protection. At SENIOR Level there are further learning activities which explore pornography in more detail.

Resources to support this activity

- PowerPoint slides
- Cards: Statements for discussion about pornography
- Cards: Statements about *Real Sex* or *Porn Sex*
- Handout: Key learning points and links to further information
- *Porn: Fact or Fiction* animation from amaze.org (duration 1 minute 58 seconds)
<https://youtu.be/GdB2rmGqqNU>
- ChildLine pages about online porn: <https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/online-porn/>

Whenever you use content on a platform like YouTube please cue the film you intend to play in advance, check it is the film you want to view, and skip adverts.

Activity

1. Introduce the learning activity along these lines: Today the class will be talking about pornography.
 - Acknowledge that some young people may have seen a lot of pornography, some may not have seen any, and many will have seen some things maybe by accident or because someone has shared something on their phone.
 - The point of talking and learning together today is about trying to think about pornography, what messages it can portray and how young people understand it. Also explain that you will talk openly and honestly about pornography and that it is important that no-one judges or makes fun of anybody. It is ok to disagree with other people's opinions, but to use respectful language at all times.
 - Finally, if there is anything that young people do not want to ask in front of others, or would like more information about, remind them they can talk to you at another time.

2. **What is pornography?** Share the slide.

Pornography is sometimes called 'porn'. Pornography is a photograph, image, film or words that are about something sexual and is made or shared to make another person sexually excited. Porn can show people's sexual body parts or show people having sex. Some porn can be upsetting because it shows a person being hurt or abused.

3. **Small group and class discussion.** Explain that (use slide): Porn and sex are the most searched words on the internet. Porn is easily accessible, especially on the internet. Acknowledge young people may have seen porn even if they were not searching for it. Ask the young people to work in small groups for some discussion, use the series of statements (cut from prop) about pornography, ask them to sort the statements in to those they **agree** with, **disagree** with or maybe feel the answer is '**depends**'. Emphasise that there are no right or wrong answers – if they disagree that's okay.
 - a) Watching porn is harmless fun
 - b) Porn is only for men and boys
 - c) You can watch too much porn
 - d) Porn is used for pleasure and masturbation
 - e) Watching porn can be bad for relationships
 - f) It is normal for young people to watch porn
 - g) You can learn how to have sex by watching porn

4. Bring the young people back together for some feedback and discussion. Share the statements on the slides and work through each encouraging feedback and discussion. Share the comments prepared in terms of each – does it fit with young people’s perspectives?
 - Watching porn is harmless fun – *Some people are of the view that porn encourages the person watching to just see the other person as a sexual object, and not as an equal human being, so this is bad for our relationships. A lot of porn does show people being hurt or abused, this is not okay and it’s not normal or fun.*
 - Porn is only for men and boys – *Most porn is watched by men and boys, but girls and women do watch it too. Nobody should be made to watch porn if they don’t want to.*
 - You can watch too much porn – *New scientific research says people who watch too much porn can become addicted. Then they need to watch more and more to feel sexually excited. You can also lose touch with what real sex and relationships are actually like.*
 - Porn is used for pleasure and masturbation – *Yes, and it’s okay to explore your body. Masturbation for boys and girls is normal. This must always be in private.*
 - Watching porn can be bad for relationships – *Porn can make boys or men think badly of women. If you watch too much porn then you might have less enjoyment from real sex with a partner.*
 - It is normal for young people to watch porn - *33% of 11/12 year olds say they have seen pornography. 95% of 14 year olds say they have seen pornography. Porn is really easy to find and see but it doesn’t mean you have to like it or watch it.*
 - You can learn how to have sex by watching porn – *Real sex and porn sex are different, we’ll think more about this now.*

Round up discussion by emphasising that there are lots of different opinions about pornography, it is ok to have sexual feelings and to enjoy your body by masturbating. At this point re-emphasise/make a general statement that a young person doesn’t have to watch porn and you don’t have to watch it just because your friends are.

5. **Real or not real?** Watch the animation, it is funny and conveys the key messages from the activity so far: *Porn: Fact or Fiction* (duration 1 minute 58 seconds) <https://youtu.be/GdB2rmGqqNU> Any initial thoughts or comments?
6. **Small group discussion - Real life sex vs porn sex:** Re-emphasise that although the pornography a young person might see looks real because it has people in it doing sexual things, as the animation just suggested, it is made up, it is a story, in this sense it is not real. Give small groups the next set of cards. Ask them to sort into 2 piles depending on whether they think each statement describes: *Real Sex* or *Porn Sex*.
7. Use the slides to review what’s real/what’s porn, exploring views as you go. Ask, **why the difference?** Look for points where there is piqued interest in the class/group – for example that no one in porn has body hair? The end statement is about consent. There is content at this Level about consent see **activity 3.5** if this has not been covered have some discussion about consent meaning giving permission for sexual contact, if it has been covered refresh that discussion.

| Real sex | Porn sex |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| People don’t always want to have sex. | Everyone is always up for sex. |

| | |
|--|--|
| You can get pregnant or get an STI if you don't use condoms and contraception. | People don't use condoms and there are no consequences. |
| Bodies, vulvas, breasts and penises can be all shapes and sizes. | Men have extra-large penises. Women have extra-large breasts and small vulvas. |
| People have body hair. | No-one has any body hair. |
| People can be quiet, or loud and make different sorts of noises when having sex. | Sex is loud, people scream as soon as they start having sex. |
| Men ejaculate/orgasm after a few minutes. | Men's erections last for a long time without ejaculating. |
| Sex usually involves 2 people. | Sex often involves lots of different people. |
| Sex can be fun, gentle and people can show love for each other. | Sex is rough and can be violent, without feelings or emotions. |
| You always have to get consent. | Consent is never discussed, men just assume, or don't care. |

- 8. Some things to remember about porn.** Share the handout designed for this learning activity. As you read though check understanding and clarify any questions. If there is time give young people more time to review it and chat amongst themselves, then take any further comments or questions.
- 9. To end share the ChildLine pages about online porn on the smartboard** and scan down just to show what's available: <https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/online-porn/>

Connecting with home

The text below could be used to communicate with home about this activity.

This term, we are using one of our lessons in our Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenthood learning to talk about pornography. It is estimated that at least one-third of young people starting secondary school have viewed pornography, by the age of S2 over 95% will have. This activity allows young people to reflect on what pornography they may have seen, to develop their own views on pornography and learn approaches to manage their exposure to images/films they do not want to see.

There is good online information for parents and carers here: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-porn/>

There is also online information and advice for young people from ChildLine here:

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/online-porn/>

Practitioner Notes