



GET INVOLVED



30 MINUTES



PREPARATION
NEEDED

MAKING DECISIONS



▶▶ GETTING INTO THE ACTIVITY

Making your own decisions is an important part of growing up and taking responsibility for your actions. At what age should you make decisions? What makes a good decision?

Start by downloading and completing the 'minimum ages' activity. Make sure to look at the discussion questions also. Afterwards, spend some time in groups thinking about what makes a good decision. The government set age limits, as they think young people are capable of making different decisions at different ages. This is also the same at home, school and BB. Is your decision making process different at 13 than it is at 18 or 21?

List all the things that make a good decision (planning, experience, maturity, considers everyone involved, understands the consequences etc). What would you say the three most important things are to making a good decision? When you make decisions at home, school, BB and in the world, do you feel listened to and respected? Are there any areas in your life where you think you could make decisions for yourself, where you don't currently?

Virtual: For the minimum ages activity, hold up pieces of paper with your age guess written down on for all to see.

☑☑ WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Minimum Ages Activity Sheet
- Pens & Paper

! KEEPING EVERYONE SAFE

Maintain social distancing where required, particularly during the minimum ages activity.

MAKING DECISIONS

MINIMUM AGES

On one wall, hang sheets of paper ranging from 8 to 21. Line the group across the width of your meeting space. Read out each statement and ask them to stand in a space in the room that matches their guess for the age limit. After each statement, reveal the correct answer.

Item	Rank
Buy a Pet	16
Responsible for wearing a seatbelt	14
Open a snapchat account	13
Can be arrested and charged in the UK (except Scotland)	10
Can be arrested and charged in Scotland	8
Watch a 15 rated film	15
Leave school	16
Give blood	17
Buy fireworks	18
Drive a car	17
Become an MP (or equivalent)	18
Own a house	18
Adopt a child	21
Become a driving instructor	21
Get a part-time job	13
Married in the UK (apart from Scotland) without parent consent	18
Married in Scotland	16
Babysit	No age limit
Vote in a UK Parliament election	18
Vote in Scottish and Welsh elections	16

Use these discussion questions afterwards to prompt discussion.

- Is it right that you can open a snapchat account at 13 and be exposed to all the potential dangers (bullying, mental health, unwanted accounts), yet you can't watch a 15 film because of a few swear words or violent scenes which are all fictional?
- Is it fair that you can pay tax from 16, but you can't vote until 18?
- Where there are differences in age limits in different parts of the UK, is that fair? Which country's age limit do you think is most appropriate?
- Are all the ages fair? Is there any that you would change?