

the science of...  
**SPYING**

## I'm just a schoolkid... get me out of here

Communicating – Empathy and Language

### Purpose

To explore issues around surveillance and spying using reality TV concepts as a starting point.

### Age range (years)



### Subjects

English, Drama,  
Psychology.



### Background

Being a participant on Reality TV isn't very realistic at all - and makes people behave unnaturally. Increasingly however, we are living our lives on camera, both for security and entertainment. A 'TV life' is becoming a reality. What impact is this having on us?

### Steps

#### You will need:

- a video camera

1. Ask students to imagine that the class has been selected to take part in a new reality TV show, *I'm just a schoolkid – get me out of here!* CCTV cameras will watch students' every move as they go around the school.
2. Set up a video camera in the classroom and explain the lesson is being recorded. (Whether you record it or not is up to you).
3. Set the class another activity (perhaps one from the Science of Spying education resources). 'Film' various student groups as they go about this activity.
4. At a suitable point get students to

discuss how it felt being filmed. How did it affect the way they behaved? How did they want to be seen? Did they play up to the cameras?

5. If you did film students you can watch the footage – exploring how students behaved when they knew they were on camera.

### Discussion

- Why do people take part in reality programmes?
- Why do we watch them? Is this spying?
- CCTV cameras are being used more in public places. Why do people use them?
- How would you feel if you were filmed without your knowledge?
- How would you feel if your Head Teacher, parents or boyfriend saw the show?

### Extension

Use the resource 'Candid Camera' to debate surveillance in more depth.