

Should celebrities be good role models?

With celebrities spending so much time in the public eye, some people believe that they should set a good example to their fans.

What you need to know

- Today, celebrities are everywhere. Newspapers report their every move, and reality-television programmes film their antics. Celebrities also use social media to communicate directly with fans. As a result, their words and actions have more influence than ever.
- Taylor Swift is a world-famous pop star. The video for her latest single is about her disagreement with another pop star, Kanye West, but some say that by publicly attacking him, she is setting a bad example.
- Role models can make a difference to young people. Good role models inspire them to live well and be kind to others. Bad role models can do the opposite.



DID YOU KNOW?
In 2015, a poll found that UK parents' most unpopular role model was singer Miley Cyrus. Their favourite was the Duchess of Cambridge.

Taylor Swift has been accused of setting a bad example for her fans.

Celebrity culture is a massive part of modern life. We hear so much about what celebrities are doing that they are often admired just as much for their lifestyles as for their talent. People look up to celebrities as role models. Stars like Taylor Swift have millions of fans all over the world, but some people think that celebrities like her aren't taking their responsibilities seriously. Swift has attracted criticism for her latest music video because she uses it as a chance to comment on a personal disagreement she has with another musician. In fact, a lot of her songs are about revenge, and some people don't think this is a good example to set her young fans. As someone in the public eye, is it important that she is a good role model?

Yes - they owe it to their fans

Successful musicians and actors aren't only influential because they're famous; young people like and trust them, too. People may look to celebrities for guidance on how to behave. Stars like Emma Watson, who played Hermione in the *Harry Potter* films, has used her fame to spread positive messages. In a famous speech at the UN, Watson drew attention to the important issue of gender equality. In 2009, Michelle Obama, wife of former US president, Barack Obama, visited a girls' school in west London. Pupils were inspired by her speech on the importance of education, and they went on to achieve top exam results, showing that stars can make a positive impacts as role models.

No - it's not their job to set a good example

It's almost impossible to be a successful actor or musician without also being famous. However, just because someone is talented enough for their work to be enjoyed by millions, it doesn't mean that the way they live their life should be imitated - or even admired. Being famous doesn't make someone nice, or good, and it's certainly no reason for someone to become a role model. Stars like Justin Bieber are often in the news for misbehaving - he's even been banned from China for his behaviour. It's not a celebrity's job to act as a role model for children - young people should be able to look up to their parents, carers or teachers for guidance on how to behave.

GETTY IMAGES

YES Three reasons why celebrities should be good role models

- 1 Because celebrities are so closely monitored by the media, they should set a good example.
- 2 Young people trust and identify with celebrities. Stars can use their platforms to spread positive messages, and promote good ideals and values.
- 3 By putting themselves forwards as positive role models, famous people have proved to make a real difference to people's lives.

NO Three reasons why celebrities shouldn't have to be good role models

- 1 Actors and singers don't ask for fame - it just comes with the job. It doesn't mean that the way they live their life should be imitated.
- 2 There's no good reason to look up to celebrities - often they behave badly.
- 3 It's not up to celebrities to provide role models for children; it's the job of parents and teachers to give guidance to young people.

THE WEEKLY POLL

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