

 **digital**  
 **matters**



# Digital Matters Supporter Pack



Digital Security  
Progress. Protected.



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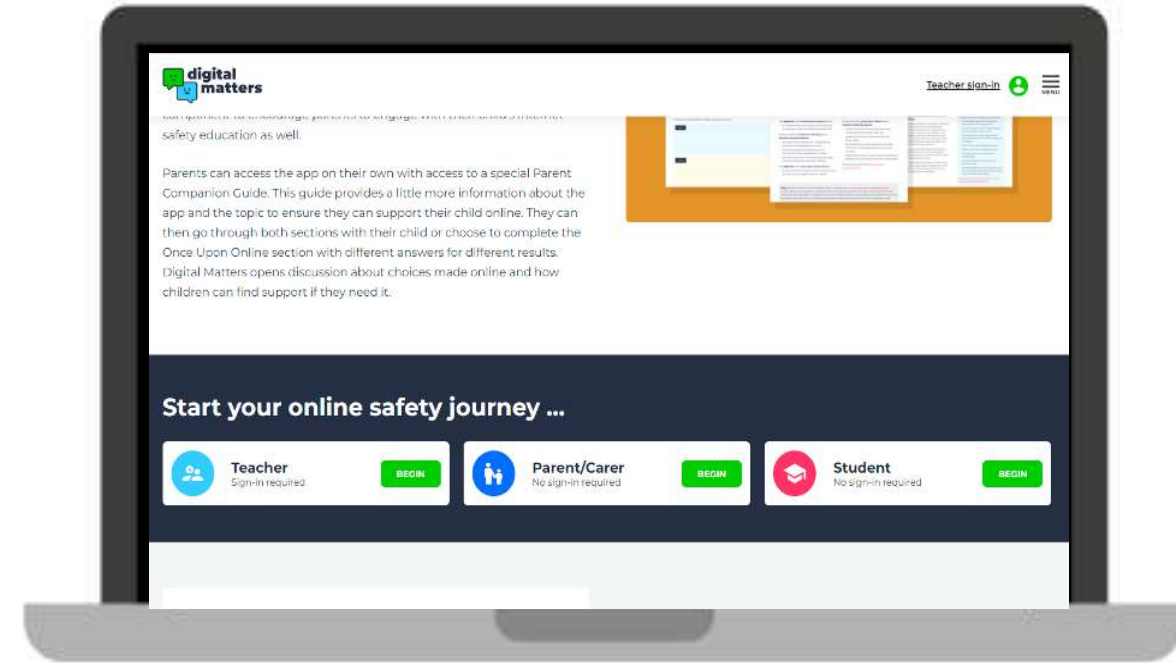
# Digital Matters is a free learning platform

**Digital Matters is a free learning platform** from online safety experts Internet Matters – to support primary schools as they teach the online safety curriculum and media literacy.

To ensure the highest quality **we are working with PSHE Association to fully accredit our lessons**, which have been **developed with** the expertise of **teachers** following the UKCIS Education for a Connected World Framework.

Covering a range of online safety topics from cyberbullying to privacy and security, Digital Matters **provides a well-rounded approach to online safety education for 9–11-year-olds.**

Resources include readymade lesson plans, interactive resources, quizzes and real-life scenarios, plus printable handouts.



Visit us [here](https://www.digitalmatters.org)



# Developed with insight from teachers and parents



We wanted to create a platform that could meet the needs of the new online safety requirements in the curriculum.

Research conducted with teachers and parents revealed:

- A large variety of resources were being used to support teaching, but **no one tool felt comprehensive enough to be used alone.**
- **Teachers often struggled to find resources** that were age-appropriate yet impactful enough for the message to sink in for children.

Using these insights, we created Digital Matters to support teachers in the classroom, parents at home and students in their digital journey.

## Teachers specified the following key features for the platform

- Have **everything in one place** to save teachers' time
- Be **updated regularly** and easily
- **Simulate real life scenarios** and make learning more real for students
- Be **compatible across devices**
- Prompt class discussions
- Strengthen the **link between school and home**

**Parents said** schools were their main source of online safety advice and would be likely to use a school recommended platform with their children.

# There are four modules available at launch

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**Privacy and Security**



**Online Bullying**



**Managing Online Information**



**Online Relationships**

- Users can choose different subjects and lessons
- Each lesson is split into Interactive Learning and Once Upon Online
- Teachers have access to Lesson Resources with supporting materials, including the lesson plan and its companion guide
- Parents can access their Fast Facts in the same area
- Each lesson goes through the PSHE accreditation process
- New modules will be added over time

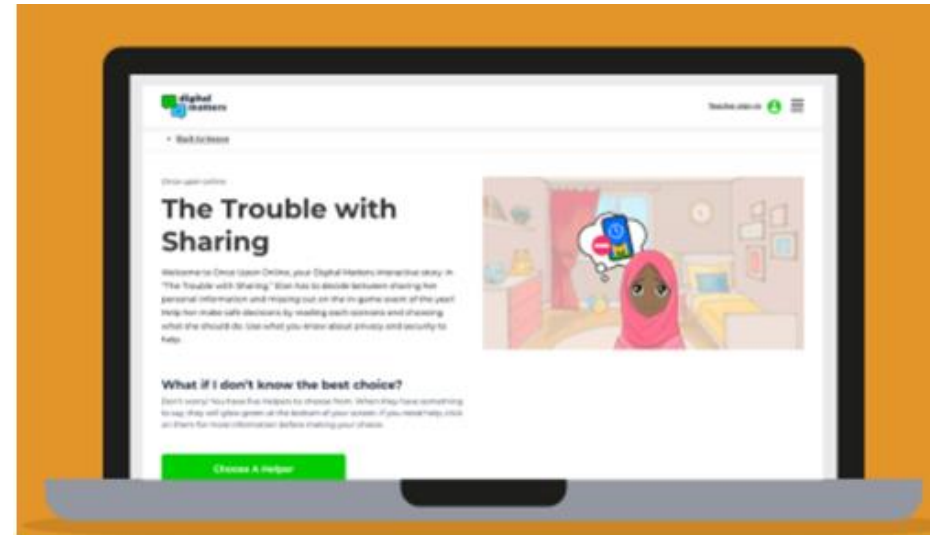
# The platform is divided into two sections: Interactive Learning and Once Upon Online

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## Interactive Learning

Each lesson has three interactive learning activities to complete alongside the lesson plan.



## Once Upon Online

Each lesson also has a story-based activity where children must read the chapter and decide what the character should do next. Using what they learnt in the first part of the lesson to get the characters to a positive end point.

# Supporting resources for teachers and parents

For each topic we've created a teachers pack that contains:

- lesson plan
- companion guide
- curriculum links
- baseline /summative assessment
- lesson PowerPoint slides
- offline worksheet
- letter to inform parents

*"I found these resources really accessible. It is well resourced and thoroughly planned. Really importantly, this is teaching children how to keep themselves safe online – which is a vital life skill for the next generation."*

Patrick Winn  
Teacher

**Internet matters.org** **digital matters**

## Introduction to Thinking Critically Online

**Module:** Managing Online Information  
**Suitable for:** Year 5, 6  
**Total Time:** 50-120 minutes (see Companion Guide for time alterations)

The objective of the **Interactive Learning** lesson is: To recognise what types of information online can be considered reliable.

The objective of the **Once Upon Online** lesson is: To analyse information to make a judgement about verifiable accuracy.

By the end of the **Interactive Learning** lesson, students should be able to:

- describe simple strategies for creating strong passwords and keeping them private
- describe strategies for keeping personal information private, depending on context
- describe simple ways to increase privacy on apps and services that provide privacy settings

**Lesson Companion Guide**  
Introduction to Protecting Personal Information Online

### The Lesson

The introduction to Protecting Personal Information Online lesson is split into two sections.

The objective of the **Interactive Learning** section is:

- To understand the role privacy and security play in keeping our personal information safe online

By the end of the **Interactive Learning** section, students should be able to:

- understand that online services have terms and conditions that govern their use
- explain what to do if a password is shared, lost or stolen
- give reasons why someone should only share information with people they choose to and can trust
- explain that if they are not sure about something or feel pressured then they should tell a trusted adult

**Before the lesson**

**Preparation**

1. Read through the lesson plan and content in this pack to ensure full understanding of the timing and structure. Ideally, the **Interactive Learning** and **Once Upon Online** sections will take place separately from one another to keep children from getting fatigued.
2. Check online connections and room/device bookings so children can fully participate in the activities. Alternatively, see instruction below if children will not have internet access but teachers will.
3. To access the app, simply go to <https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-emergency> and login as a teacher. Students will get to the app the same way but will not require any account access. Simply guide them through to the correct subject (Privacy and Security) and lesson (Introduction to Protecting Personal Information Online) to get started. Further instructions can be found in the lesson plan notes.

**Before the lesson, you may want to read through the:**

- Companion Guide
- Cross-Curricular Links
- Letter to Parents (see more below)

**For Interactive Learning, you will need the:**

- Baseline/Summative Assessment (to be returned to following Once Upon Online)
- Lesson Plan
- Lesson Slides

If you have a **limited internet connection** and are leading the activities at the front of the classroom, you will need the:

- Interactive Learning handout
- Once Upon Online template (also includes take-home activity/reflection questions)

**Further reading: Keeping Children Safe in Education**

**Internet matters.org** **digital matters**

## Introduction to Thinking Critically Online

**CROSS-CURRICULAR LINKS**

Subject	England's national curriculum objectives Students should...	Application of Digital Matters
English Reading Comprehension	read books that are structured in different ways and read for a range of purposes	children choose their own style format of Digital Matters story to read to explore a range of story telling they may have more about before and can be used as a basis for creating their own stories
	increase their familiarity with a wide range of books	children could be encouraged to other types of choose-your-own-adventure stories as a link to Digital Matters and Once Upon Online
	check that the book makes sense to	through teacher, independent and discussion of their story journey, students are able to understand from their choices and the

## Parent & Carer Companion Guide

**PRIVACY AND SECURITY MODULE**  
Introduction to protecting personal information online

### Introduction

As the world becomes more reliant on technology, it's important for children to grow up understanding how the online world works and what positive interactions look like. The Digital Matters app is designed to help children navigate online issues in a way that allows them to take risks and explore consequences without harm.

The app is divided into two sections that help your child develop their understanding of each online safety topic.

The first is **Interactive Learning**, which is designed for use in the classroom. It features a range of quiz-based questions to encourage children to think about and discuss key points in the module. As a parent, you can also make use of this section to help introduce your child to the topics.

The second is **Once Upon Online**, a story-based activity where your child has to make choices to move the story forward. Users receive instant feedback on how their decisions impact the characters, helping children to understand that what they do online has real-world consequences. The story allows them to make choices just to see where they go without putting themselves in harm's way.

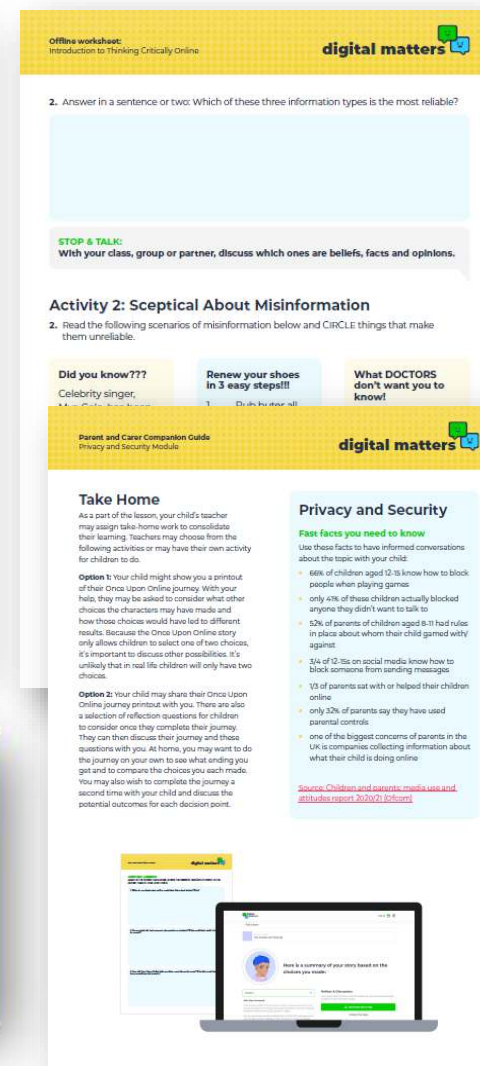
**Digital Matters is a great way to explore online safety in a realistic and engaging manner.**

# Supporting resources for teachers and parents

Here are examples of the offline worksheets

*“Well-planned and resourced. Clear information on coverage of national curriculum and education for a connected world. I liked all the options given to make the lessons more interesting.”*

*Cheryl Brown  
Teacher*





# Together you can help us make a bigger impact

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## Why it's important

- The more ways you can help us to showcase the resources, the more opportunities we'll have for teachers to utilise the free and interactive resources with children



- It enables schools to teach online safety in a **digital format via any device** with the added **flexibility to deliver offline**, adapting to the needs of the classroom
- Teachers can also share companion resources with parents to **continue learning at home, supporting a joint approach to online safety education between teacher and parent**

# Here's how you can raise awareness of the platform

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The aim of this pack is to provide ideas and tools to assist you in promoting the Digital Matters platform with educators.

Here are some ways in which you can help raise awareness:



**Emails/  
Newsletters**



**Social  
Media**



**Signpost on  
your  
website**



**Ideas for  
future  
collaboration  
/activations**



**Connecting  
us with  
relevant  
contacts**

# Resources available to share the platform



Full download link here:

[Social shares and copy](#)



Find us on social media:



Twitter:  
**@IM\_org**



Facebook:  
**InternetMatters**



LinkedIn:  
**Internet-matters-ltd**



YouTube:  
**internetmatters**

# Key Contacts

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