

**Navigating
Mis and
Disinformation**

Guide for Parents



Helping to develop the skills needed
to recognise when information online
may not be trustworthy

Overview

From social media to online video games, your child will come across information shared as fact from a range of people. But is it all trustworthy?

'Navigating mis and disinformation' is a lesson which aims to help your child develop their critical thinking skills. It does this through a range of discussions and activities to help them stop and think before sharing new information with others.

Help support their learning at home after the lesson is complete with the information and tips in this guide.

What you need to know

Misinformation

is false information that is shared because someone thinks it's true.

Disinformation

is false information that is shared by someone who knows it's false and is trying to mislead others.

1 in 5

children aged 9-17 in the United Kingdom say they've come across mis/disinformation.

84%

of UK teens say that parents and carers are responsible for helping young people learn how to spot false or misleading information, followed by schools (81%).

47%

of teens in the UK say that it's unacceptable for people to change or fake evidence to support what they say.

52%

of children in the UK who talk about online safety with their parents/carers have not talked about misinformation.

Around one-quarter

of teens in the UK say they are not confident that peers their age can tell the difference between information that is true and false online.

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Review your child's learning

In their lesson, your child learned about the signs of something being fake online, why it's important to double-check information they find online (including from AI sources) and what they can do to get support if they've accidentally believed or shared false information.

Use one or both of the following activities to test their knowledge.

Activity 1

Discuss the activity they completed in class. For Key Stage 2, this is an infographic showing the signs to look out for. For Key Stage 3, they needed to assess different stories and decide whether they were real or fake. Ask them for the ideas they came up with for fact-checking information.

Activity 2

Quiz them using the questions below. The **highlighted** options are the correct answers, which you can share with your child at the end, along with the additional provided information.

1. When you search for something using a search engine, you might see an AI overview giving you an answer. What should you do with this information?
 - a) Believe it
 - b) Scroll past it to other results**
 - c) Double-check the information somewhere else**

Explanation:

AI Overviews can sometimes be a quick way to get answers, but it can also sometimes misunderstand the question or make up responses. It's best to look for other sources to confirm the information it provides.

- 2.** You come across a video with a lot of views. The person in the video is sharing facts that go against what most people say. What is the BEST thing to do?
- a) Report it as misinformation**
 - b) Comment how wrong it is**
 - c) Click on recommended videos after watching the video**

Explanation:

Engaging with a controversial video through comments or clicking on recommendations might mean you see more similar videos. This can influence your beliefs on the topic and make you believe in incorrect information. It's best to report misleading information to get it reviewed by the platform.

- 3.** Imagine you believed in information that someone later told you was wrong. You feel confused and maybe upset. What could you do?
- a) Keep believing the original information as true**
 - b) Share how you feel with a trusted adult (e.g. Mum, Dad, your teacher)**
 - c) Tell the person who told you that they're wrong**

Explanation:

When we believe something is true for a long time, it can be hard to come to terms with a different point of view (even if the new information is what's true). If you're ever in a similar situation, make sure you consider the new information and double check what you believe. Talk with a trusted adult to get support if you're not sure what to do or if you just need to talk.

Additional resources

Learn more about mis and disinformation or find more activities you can do with your child using the resources below.

Internet Matters: Fake news and misinformation advice hub

Internet Matters: Find the Fake interactive quiz

Internet Matters: Using artificial intelligence (AI)

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