



GUIDANCE NOTES NO:

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FAKE NEWS: WHAT TO TRUST ONLINE

FOR ALL

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FAKE NEWS: WHAT TO TRUST ONLINE

TOP TIPS FOR CHILDREN/YOUNG PEOPLE

The internet is a great way to communicate and access information – when used correctly. Unfortunately, because everyone has direct access to it, it can also be a platform for what’s become known as ‘fake news’.

"Fake news describes anything thought to be false, misleading or inaccurate information spread online by either news services or via social media. It can also be used to describe satirical (a type of joke) content, clickbait, rumours, false content shared by accident or even adverts." (Childnet 2021)*

Fake news can take many forms, such as images, videos or shared as a social media post (like a tweet, post or comment) or in the style of a traditional news article. Whilst not always dangerous it can be, especially if it begins to change how people think and behave. Sometimes fake news can encourage dangerous or harmful beliefs or actions, which could also hurt people if trusted and taken seriously.

But there’s lots we can all do to prevent these kinds of problems. Childnet has provided some really helpful tips;

1. **Read beyond the headline** – when scrolling or searching online, remember that you won’t always get the full story from a headline, title or photo.
2. **Look for the original source** – whatever content you are looking at, try to work out who created it or where it came from originally.
3. **Question the things you see** – think about its purpose, whether it matches what you already know or if there are any clues it might be suspicious.
4. **Do further research** – it’s always best to check multiple sources, like several websites, different videos or even offline in a book.
5. **Take action against fake news** – use the report tool or speak up about fake or misleading content and never share it on without checking it’s true.
6. **Speak to an adult you know and trust for further help and support** – this could be a parent, carer or whoever looks after you at home, a teacher or staff member at school, or somebody else

To find out more visit [here](#).

**Childnet was established in 1995. Its mission is to work in partnership with others around the world to help make the internet a safe place for children. "We work directly with children and young people from the ages of three to 18 on a weekly basis, as well as parents, carers, teachers and professionals, finding out about their real experiences online, and the positive things they are doing as well as sharing safety advice".*

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