



INTERNET SAFETY MONTH 2024



GET YOUR FACTS RIGHT!

Help our learner's fact find, accuracy check and compare/contrast the information they are reading by using the following:

- **Snopes** - the oldest and largest fact-checking site online, widely regarded by journalists and readers as an invaluable research companion.
- **BBC Verify** - a BBC News service dedicated to clearing up fake news and false stories to find the truth.
- **Full Fact** - Independent fact checkers and campaigners who find, expose, and counter the harm of bad information.
- **Whois** - A Whois domain lookup allows you to trace the ownership and tenure of a domain name. Similar to how all houses are registered with a governing authority, all domain name registries maintain a record of information about every domain name purchased through them, along with who owns it, and the date till which it has been purchased

CRITICAL THINKING

The following 7 simple steps can aid us in making the right choices about who and what is trustworthy online:

1. Check your emotions – misinformation often tries to hijack our rational minds with emotional appeals
2. Be aware of your biases – are you assuming or hoping that the information is true, or false?
3. Determine the motive – people may try to trick you, some people lie, info might be opinions and not facts
4. Consider the message – is it 'too perfect'? is it overtly or aggressively partisan? Is there loaded language?
5. Gather more information – are reputable news outlets reporting the same thing? Have independent fact-checkers contested or debunked it?
6. Go deeper into the source – check website registration, social media use and any errors
7. Go deeper still – By-line, date, key details, quotes, and image searches

"EXERCISE YOUR INDIVIDUAL LIBERTY, BUT KNOW WHERE TO DRAW THE LINE"

FREEDOM OF SPEECH

The right to voice an opinion without fear of restriction or punishment. **In the UK, this right is limited by the law.**

E.g. you cannot use threatening or abusive language likely to cause distress or great offence. This includes racist or anti-religious hate speech.

HATE SPEECH

Speech that attacks a person or group on the basis of their race, religion, ethnic or national origin, sexual orientation, disability, or gender.

This includes images, videos, music, memes

HATE CRIME

This is when someone commits a crime against you because of your disability, gender identity, race, sexual orientation, religion, or any other perceived difference.

"If it is illegal offline, don't do it online!"

THE LAW IS THERE TO PROTECT PEOPLE:

- Whilst some hate speech may not be deliberately intended to cause harm it could promote negative stereotypes and incite violence, especially as things can escalate rapidly online.
- What can be seen as offensive, harmful and abusive language online can, in certain circumstances, cross a line and result in individuals committing criminal offences.
- By law, people of different races and beliefs must be treated fairly.
- Being safe online is wider than avoiding a criminal investigation - it starts with some basic rules that protect your personal information, being careful what you chose to download and being careful what you post or forward to friends. This could also affect your **digital footprint**.
- **Trust your instincts** - if it seems dodgy seek advice from someone you can trust.



- **DISINFORMATION** deliberately sharing inaccurate information-to trick, confuse or influence
- **MISINFORMATION** accidentally sharing inaccurate information not trying to trick anyone.
- **FAKE NEWS** presenting inaccurate stories or hoaxes as factual reporting or journalism
- **AGENDA** what you want to achieve by sharing certain messages or content
- **PROPAGANDA** deliberate and selective use of facts and/or misleading information to influence choices, actions or beliefs
- **STEREOTYPE** a fixed or oversimplified idea about what someone or something is like
- **OPINION** a belief based on personal feelings which cannot be proved
- **FACT** information that is true and backed by evidence.
- **CONTEXT** background or surrounding information to help you fully understand something that could have a different meaning on its own.