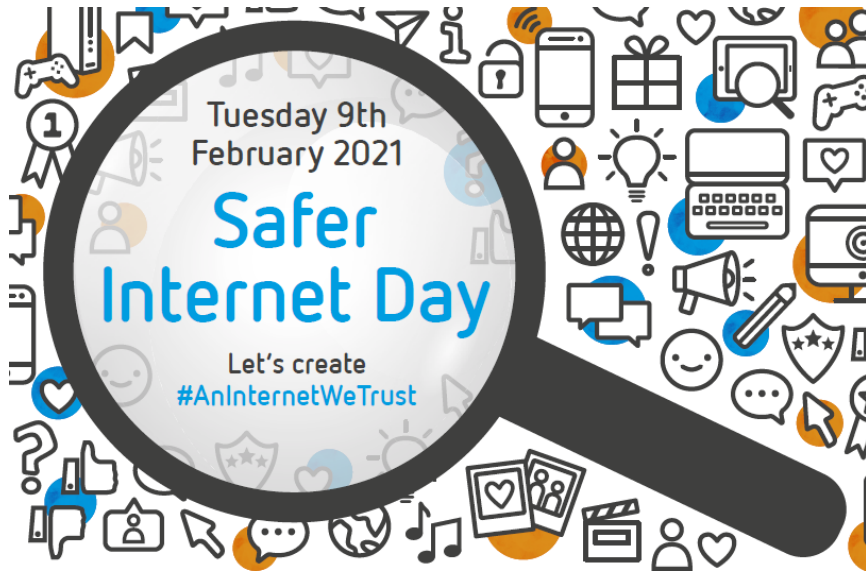


Parents/Teachers

Tuesday 9th February 2021

Safer Internet Day



The theme for this year is

An internet we trust: exploring reliability in the online world

Introduction

Safer Internet Day 2021 celebrates the amazing range of information and opportunities online, and its potential to inform, connect and inspire us, whilst also looking at how young people can separate fact from fiction.

The campaign focuses on how we can decide what to trust online, supporting young people to question, challenge and change the online world for the better. It will explore how influence, persuasion and manipulation can impact young people's decisions, opinions and what they share online.

It can be very difficult navigating a misleading online world and it is important to create a supportive, critical and questioning culture online that encourages debate and discussion. We want to give young people the skills to support one another, and the strategies to spot and speak out against harmful and misleading content online.

In order to decide on a theme that was important to young people we spoke to them about the types of content they see online and found fake news and inaccurate content to come up often. Young people said they saw:

- 'I see a lot of Fake News content, a lot of fake celebrity gossip, fake gossip (general)'
- 'Adverts on webpages showing celebrities with extreme weight loss transformations and stuff like that.'
- 'Adverts and pop ups or even occasionally strangers messages and such.'
- 'People on tiktok making up news, conspiracy theories...'

Through Safer Internet Day 2021 we will look at why inaccurate content exists, where it comes from, and what young people can do in response.

We know that the issues of misinformation and 'fake news' do not solely affect young people, but that these issues do have a great impact on how young people feel about their time online.

Additional Materials

1) Attached Presentation/Virtual Assembly

2) Video Resources

Who can you trust online (Film for 11-18 year olds)

<https://vimeo.com/481359801>

BBC Expert Reality Check

<https://vimeo.com/480845403>

Pupil Introduction

The online world is a great source of information for young people and adults alike, and opportunities to research, learn new facts or skills, and even broaden viewpoints are extremely important to all internet users.

The internet is also an important way for young people to build positive relationships - to play, interact and share their lives with their peers.

As you navigate these social spaces, you are constantly making decisions about who and what to trust online in the context of playing games together and socialising online

Safer Internet Day aims to help you make good decisions in an online world where not everything

1) Question the source: Can you confirm online information by using other websites?

Check the source to help you decide if the information you are sharing is trustworthy.

Consider where the information has come from and if you know the person or company sharing it. This could give you a reason to be suspicious or to feel that you can trust it. Can you find the same information somewhere else?

The more sources that say the same thing, and the more reliable those sources, the more likely it is that the information can be trusted.

2) Fact or opinion: Always check whether there could be another side to the story.

Take the time to examine the information you see online and compare it to what you already know about that topic.

Do you know enough to decide whether to trust it? If not, do a research to find out more.

Think about what the information is telling you and look for facts or quotes to support the argument. Is an opinion being presented as a fact?

Be aware that a lot of what we see online is other people's opinions and that there could be another side of the argument.

Remember that opinions you see online are just that, you do not have to follow them and your opinion is just as important. If the viewpoint of the writer is clear this could be bias.

3) Is it too good to be true?

Think about the reasons behind the things you see online and why they are there.

If a celebrity is promoting a product it is likely that they are being paid to do so.

Look at the way the information or products are presented. Are you being sold something? Is someone trying to change your mind? Reviews can be useful but cannot always be trusted.

It has been known for people to write positive reviews of items to boost sales. Be sure to think about what you already know before you trust something online.

Remember that if something looks too good to be true it probably is.

4) Check with your friends: Discuss the online information with people you trust.

If you are suspicious or not sure about something you see online talk to your friends for a second opinion. You might not all agree but it can be really useful to share your knowledge and talk it through.

One of your friends may have taken the time to research it further or have some useful experience in this area. Ask your friends what they think. Do your friends think this is trustworthy or not? Work together to think about other sources that will help you to decide.

5) Talk it through: Work with adults to identify and stop misleading or unfair content.

It can be hard to know what to do about false or misleading content online, but if you see something misleading, upsetting or worrying online then speak to a trusted adult.

This is an issue that affects everyone – talking it through with someone who supports you can help you feel less alone.

Even if you don't know all the answers, together you could take some small steps like making a report, and letting others know not to share it on. Do you think what you're seeing is misleading or unfair?

Has something been presented in a way to deliberately create hatred and anger? Is it upsetting or worrying?