



Being Sceptical Online

Year 5 Online Safety – Managing Online Information

Parent and Carer Activity Sheet

This half term, we are learning about how to be 'sceptical' when we see information online, and how to check if it is accurate, reliable and trustworthy.



What are we learning?

We are learning to be sceptical about things we see, read and hear online. This means we don't just believe everything straight away – we pause, think and check if it is true.

We are also learning about the difference between misinformation (inaccurate information shared by mistake) and disinformation (inaccurate information shared deliberately to mislead).



Key Learning



I can explain what is meant by 'being sceptical'.



I understand the difference between misinformation and disinformation.



I can evaluate information and spot flawed reasoning.



Key Vocabulary

Sceptical

Not just believing something straight away; questioning and checking if it is true.

Misinformation

Information that is false or inaccurate and shared by accident (not on purpose).

Disinformation

Information that is false or inaccurate and shared deliberately to mislead others.

1 Look at this together

Look at the image below. At first glance, it might seem real. Take a close look and discuss the questions.

WORLD NEWS Home News Sport More

Rare Pink Dolphins Spotted Off UK Coast!

Scientists are amazed after a pod of rare pink dolphins were seen swimming near the coast this week. Experts say this could be a sign of cleaner oceans.

2 Things to discuss

- What do you think about this story?
- Does it seem real or fake? Why?
- What makes you think that?
- What else would you need to find out?
- Where could you check if it's true?
- Could this be misinformation or disinformation?
- What would you do next?

3 Be a digital detective!

Use these questions to help you check information online:

☐		Who created this? Is it a trusted source?
☐		When was it created? Is it up to date?
☐		What is the evidence? Are there facts or just opinions?
☐		Could it be a joke or a hoax? Is it trying to be funny?
☐		Is it trying to persuade me of something? Could it be an advert or trying to influence my opinion?

4 Try it at home

Choose a news story, image or social media post together. It could be something you've seen recently or one of the examples below:

- A surprising animal story
- A health or food claim
- A post from a celebrity
- A headline you've seen in the news
- A viral video or image



5 Talk about it

- How easy is it to be misled online?
- Why do you think some people create and share false information?
- What might happen if someone believes information that isn't true?
- How can we make sure we are sceptical and check information before sharing it?



6 Remember...



Not everything online is true.



Be sceptical – pause and think.



Check different sources.



Talk to a trusted adult if you are unsure.



Think before you share – false information can spread quickly.